

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Acquisition

Project Name/Code: Desert and Mountain Conservation Authority Pre-Acquisition

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

#### I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition

Location/Park Name: N/A

#### II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: Desert and Mountain Conservation Authority

Total Grant Amount: \$50,000

Funding Source(s): Proposition 12

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-0005

Board Actions (Date): 6/5/07

Resolution Number: 07-34

#### III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A

Funding Source(s):

Item of Appropriation:

Board Actions (Date):

Resolution Number:

Total Grant Amount:

#### IV. NARRATIVE:

The Desert and Mountain Conservation Authority (DMCA) is an authority created by the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Agreements signed on August 9, 2006 between the Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, which can be found at <http://www.dmca.ca.gov>. The DMCA was established to help acquire, identify, and manage areas that will preserve open space habitat located in the more northern portion of Los Angeles County. In this grant request the DMCA proposes to

provide pre-acquisition services such as land appraisals, title reports, mapping and land owner contacts. The Resource Conservation District (RCD) is the fiscal agent of the JPA.

The protection of habitat linkages between the Sierra Pelona and San Gabriel mountains ranges and in the Upper Santa Clara River watershed is critical to maintain large scale regional ecological connectivity. There are numerous Los Angeles County-designated Significant Ecological Areas in this transition area between the Santa Clara River Watershed and Antelope Valley. This grant request would give the DMCA the much needed momentum to begin land acquisitions and preserve open space in these areas of Statewide significance. A major fund target would be Proposition 84 funds from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB).

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Acquisition

Project Name/Code: East Canyon Acquisition  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition  
Location/Park Name: Santa Clarita Woodlands Park

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$1,673,500  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 12, Proposition 40  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-0005, 3810-301-6029  
Board Actions (Date): 9/26/05  
Resolution Number: 05-073

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

The 4,000-acre Santa Clarita Woodlands Park contains a globally unique combination of tree species, perennial streams, spring wildflower displays, and abundant wildlife. The Woodlands are a critical component of a cross-mountain range wildlife habitat corridor that links the Santa Monica Mountains to the Angeles and Los Padres National Forests. The requested grant funds will be used to purchase a relatively level to sloping 11.97 acre parcel immediately to the north of the MRCA ownership at 23801 The Old Road.

The 23801 property at the mouth of East Canyon was purchased in 1990 from the owner of the subject property, Mr. Rex Holland. The original acquisition was made to preserve the critical wildlife corridor chokepoint near Gavin Canyon and the I-5. Funds to purchase the entire ownership were not available at that time. MRCA negotiated with the owner to purchase only 10 acres, leaving the 11.97-acre property as private land for a potential commercial site. The property is in unincorporated Los Angeles County and is zoned C-3, Commercial and R3P, Limited Multiple Residence. The entire parcel is within Los Angeles County Significant Ecological Area 20. It is within the Conservancy's Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor, and is included in the "Santa Clarita Woodlands Park Feasibility Study" conducted by the California Department of Parks and Recreation in 1990.

Although a portion of the property has some development with two structures (a 1948 small home and a 4,000 square foot concrete block warehouse), the larger part of the property has very good resource value thick with coast live oak, California walnut woodland, and valley oak habitat. The site encompasses the lower portion and mouth of Learning Canyon. The MRCA is in the process of obtaining a Phase I Environmental Assessment of the property under an option that expires on October 28, 2005. Close of escrow will occur within 45 days thereafter. Mr. Holland is a willing seller at fair market value. The State Department of General Services approved the appraisal value. The second option payment will be applied to the purchase price. Absent a sale to the MRCA, Mr. Holland has previously indicated that he will reactivate his plans to build a public storage facility on the property. Other allowable uses could be a church, retail, service, or office uses, or an auto, boat, or RV sales facility. A CEQA Notice of Exemption for the fee acquisition was filed in February 2005.

V. PROJECT STATUS:

A Phase I Environmental Assessment was completed for the property in October of 2005, finding the property free of environmental liabilities. Pursuant to the Option Agreement for Purchase and Sale and Escrow Instructions, dated July 27, 2004, the option to purchase was exercised on October 26, 2005. Due to the untimely death of Paul Rex Holland, the time period for the closing of escrow was extended to allow his wife, Linda Holland, the time to procure the necessary documentation to complete the transaction as the legal representative of the estate of her late husband. That paperwork was received on

January 9, 2006. The MRCA submitted on February 16, 2006 the paperwork to the SMMC requesting that the balance of the purchase price be deposited directly into escrow.

Escrow closed on the property on March 27, 2006. The Project is Complete.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Acquisition

Project Name/Code: Soledad Canyon Conceptual Area Protection Plan

Acquisition

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition

Location/Park Name: Soledad Canyon

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority

Total Grant Amount: \$124,000

Funding Source(s): Proposition 12

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-0005

Board Actions (Date): 6/5/07

Resolution Number: 07-43

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A

Funding Source(s):

Item of Appropriation:

Board Actions (Date):

Resolution Number:

Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

The Soledad Canyon CAPP contains almost 200 parcels covering several thousand acres. CAPP implementation is critical to maintain connection between the San Gabriel Mountains and the series of mountain ranges leading to Interstate 5 (I-5). The proposed grant will be pooled with other funds – such as from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC), Santa Clara River Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority

(SCWRCA), and the City Santa Clarita to acquire property within the CAPP boundary.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Acquisition

Project Name/Code: Upper Santa Clara River Watershed and San Gabriel  
Mountains Tax Default Properties  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition  
Location/Park Name: 5<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial District

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$150,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 12  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-0005  
Board Actions (Date): 6/5/07  
Resolution Number: 07-42

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) currently has 8 pending Chapter 8 Agreements with Los Angeles County in the 5th Supervisorial District. These agreements include low-cost parcels with high habitat, watershed, viewshed, and recreational values. Typically, these Chapter 8 acquisitions pool funding from numerous sources. The decision of which parcels to apply to the money to depends on whether the taxes are redeemed on some



parcels, the final cost per parcel, and the availability of matching funding sources.

The MRCA has been acquiring tax defaulted properties through Chapter 8 Agreements in the northern portion of Los Angeles County since the passage of Proposition 12 in 2000. Those acquisitions have spanned from Chatsworth (Santa Susana Mountains) to the County-designated Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) in the southern portion of the Antelope Valley. Many of the acquisitions cost less than \$2,000 per acre. The bulk of the MRCA's acquisitions in the upper Santa Clara River Watershed, San Gabriel Mountains and Sierra Pelona range have been via Chapter 8 Agreement. The funding has come through Los Angeles County Proposition A, in lieu mitigation fees, miscellaneous small contributions, and two small Proposition 12 grants from the Conservancy over six years ago. For example, in June 2007 the MRCA is slated to acquire 240 acres via Chapter 8 Agreement across a wide swath of northern Los Angeles using over six funding sources.

With this June 2007 Chapter 8 Agreement payment, the MRCA will have no remaining mitigation funding to continue this important program. Furthermore, the Conservancy's Proposition 84 funding cannot be expended in the Santa Clara River Watershed or in any area north of the San Gabriel Mountains ridgeline. To provide regional balance, it makes great sense to spend this increment of nearly exhausted Proposition 12 funding in non-Proposition 84 eligible areas. The MRCA has sent the attached letter and application requesting a grant of \$150,000 to acquire tax defaulted properties in the subject area. All of the proposed funding would be used directly to pay the Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector for Chapter 8 Agreement parcels and the inherent agreement fees in these areas.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvements

Project Name/Code: Emergency Storm Improvements Project  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Project Planning and Design  
Location/Park Name: Ramirez

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$250,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 12  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-0005  
Board Actions (Date): 2/28/2005  
Resolution Number: 05-017

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

V. PROJECT STATUS:  
Complete

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvements

Project Name/Code: Exotic and Invasive Vegetation Removal Program  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Project Planning and Design  
Location/Park Name: Multiple

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$ 50,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 12  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-0005  
Board Actions (Date): 9/26/05  
Resolution Number: 05-71

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

V. PROJECT STATUS:

On-going

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvements

Project Name/Code: Miscellaneous Capital Outlay 04/05  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvement  
Location/Park Name: N/A

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$191,675.00  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 12  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-0005  
Board Actions (Date): 9/27/04  
Resolution Number: 04-75

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

Enhancement and/or restoration of capital assets owned and/or operated by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), specifically the Mentryville water system and Wilacre Park Trailhead, and related equipment purchases.

The MRCA operates and manages multiple park sites and open space areas for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. To perform this job well, MRCA has a variety of equipment needs. Additionally, in order to provide a high quality park experience for park visitors, minor

site improvements are often necessary. These include installation or replacement of site fixtures including signage, park benches, picnic tables, interpretive displays, plantings and other park amenities.

**Mentryville Water System Improvements:** The MRCA operates Mentryville, in the Pico Canyon area of Santa Clarita Woodlands Park. The existing water system at Mentryville supplies the domestic, irrigation and firefighting water needs of the park. The entire system is in need of major repair and overhaul, including the purchase of a new pump. This improvement project will improve the operation and safety of the park. The anticipated cost of the water system improvement project is \$20,435.

**Wilacre Park – Trailhead Improvements:** The trailhead at Wilacre Park is an extremely popular destination for hikers in the Santa Monica Mountains. Its current parking capacity does not meet the demand. MRCA proposes increasing the public access to this park by adding additional parking spaces. Approximately twenty spaces would be added next to the existing parking. An adjoining area would also be graded to create a new overflow lot that could be opened at the park rangers' discretion. The improvement project would also include some new fencing, signage and planting. The anticipated cost for the Wilacre improvements is \$91,240

**Park Enhancement and Restoration Equipment:** The MRCA continually undertakes restoration and enhancement projects on the many parks and open space areas it owns and/or operates, and needs to increase public access and provide safe and enjoyable recreational opportunities. For example, the MRCA may clear a new area in an existing park to create a usable lawn for picnicking and other informal recreation. Staff needs different equipment to make a project like this happen: chainsaws to clear the existing brush, a chipper to mulch the woody material (cheaper and more environmentally sound than disposing of it in a landfill), a trencher to dig the irrigation lines, an aerator to prepare the ground for laying sod or spreading seed, and a lawn mower to keep the improved area in good condition.

A portion of this grant would be used to purchase the equipment necessary to make a variety of these improvements. If the MRCA has the equipment on hand, staff can perform the work by force account. Otherwise, the MRCA must use outside contractors or rent the equipment, both of which often come at a higher price. This equipment

includes, but is not limited to, riding and standing lawn mowers and trailers to transport them, a chipper, a brush blazer, weed whips, chainsaws, pole saws, an aerator, a rototiller, blowers a trencher, a jackhammer, a paint sprayer, and power washers. All the equipment contemplated for purchase would have a useful life of two years or more, would be used to continue or enhance the useful life of existing or planned capital assets, and would aid in the improvement of public recreation facilities and the enhancement of natural lands. The portion of funding in this grant for this equipment is anticipated to be \$80,000.

All improvement projects that are not exempt pursuant to the exemptions found in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) will be subject to future CEQA compliance.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvements

Project Name/Code: West Mulholland Watershed Demonstration Project  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvement  
Location/Park Name: Santa Monica Mountains

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$1,600,000.00  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 12, Proposition 40, Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-0005, 3810-301-6029, 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 7/25/05  
Resolution Number: 05-054

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

The proposed project will improve public facilities at the West Mulholland Watershed Demonstration Project. Park features will include native tree, shrub, and groundcover landscaping, state-of-the-art permeable and semi-permeable surfaces, the creation of a stream and bioswale within the existing fill soil and reintroduction of riparian plants, solar irrigation system, hiking trails, a 70-car parking lot, picnic benches and shelters, interpretive kiosks, composting restroom facilities, a state-of-the-art, low impact ranger residence (approx. 1400 sq. ft.) and interpretive facility (1000 sq. ft.), and an outdoor classroom.

The West Mulholland Watershed Demonstration Project is located in the City of Los Angeles, along the dirt portion of Mulholland Drive in the Santa Monica Mountains approximately 0.75 miles east of Topanga Canyon Boulevard. The Property abuts Mulholland Drive on the northwest, with hillside residential neighborhoods extending in that direction from this point. Open space or parkland surrounds the park in all other directions, connecting to Summit Valley/Ed Edelman Park, Topanga State Park, and Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park. The current land use is vacant.

The project site was graded for development in the 1960's via importation of fill soil. The park development site is nestled at the bottom of natural bowl, and from the upper hills are scenic vistas to the north. The approximately 1.75 acre fill pad supports mostly weedy annual species, and is not visible from Mulholland Drive because of an on-site detention basin and berm. The site is located within the Mulholland Scenic Parkway viewshed.

The proposed project will utilize an irrigation system run by a solar pump and timer. The proposed ranger residence, outdoor classroom, composting restrooms, parking, interpretive center, and interpretive kiosks all feature state-of-the-art, low-impact sustainable designs to blend in with the natural character of the site, and will be augmented with native trees and landscaping.

This application includes a budget divided into the two primary tasks, Planning and Construction. However, the MRCA requests that the budgets between tasks be flexible, so long as the total expenses do not exceed the grant amount



## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Project Planning and Design

Project Name/Code: Project Planning and Design  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Project Planning and Design  
Location/Park Name: Multiple

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$225,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 12  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-0005  
Board Actions (Date): 4/25/05  
Resolution Number: 05-30

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

V. PROJECT STATUS:  
Complete

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Project Planning and Design

Project Name/Code: Project Planning and Design (Proposition 40)  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Project Planning and Design  
Location/Park Name: N/A

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$400,000.00  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 12  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029  
Board Actions (Date): 1/23/06  
Resolution Number: 06-07

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: \$150,000.00  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 40  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029  
Board Actions (Date): 6/5/07  
Resolution Number: 07-39  
Total Grant Amount: \$550,000.00

IV. NARRATIVE:

Project planning and design activities leading directly to the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration or protection of land and water resources. Planning and design activities will include researching subject properties' natural resources and ownership, negotiations and preparation of purchase agreements, obtaining and reviewing appraisals, title reports, and environmental assessments, mapping and graphics to support acquisitions, and preparation of project plans and improvement plans to ensure adequate safe public access. All activities will lead to the protection of the state's natural

and historical resources and provide healthy natural ecosystems that can support both human communities and the state's native fish and wildlife.

Potential projects that will be pursued with these funds are listed on Exhibit A, Project List and Budget. All land acquisition projects will be with willing sellers, and may include both fee simple title purchases and easements. Land acquisition project may include both fee simple title purchases and easements, and can be via direct purchase, donation, or dedication. All of the subject project planning and design activities would be consistent with Article 5, Land, Air, and Water Conservation, Section 5096.650(b) of Proposition 40, the California Clean Water, Clean Air Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 and in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

Potential projects that will be pursued with these funds are listed on Exhibit A, Project List and Budget. All land acquisition projects will be with willing sellers, may include fee simple title purchases and easements, and may be completed through donation, direct purchase, dedication or tax default. Specific staff activities will include researching subject properties' natural resources and ownership, negotiations, and preparation of purchase agreements, obtaining and reviewing appraisals, title reports, and environmental assessments, mapping and graphics to support acquisitions and preparation of project plans and improvement plans to ensure adequate and safe public access and protect sensitive natural and cultural resources.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Project Planning and Design

Project Name/Code: Vista Hermosa  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Project Planning and Design  
Location/Park Name: Vista Hermosa

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$587,700.00  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 12  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-0005  
Board Actions (Date): 11/24/03  
Resolution Number: 03-195

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

V. PROJECT STATUS:  
Complete

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Project Planning and Design

Project Name/Code: Vista Hermosa - Ketchum Downtown YMCA  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Project Planning and Design  
Location/Park Name: Vista Hermosa Park

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Stuart M. Ketchum Downtown YMCA  
Total Grant Amount: \$25,000.00  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 12  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-0005  
Board Actions (Date): 11/24/03  
Resolution Number: 03-194

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

The Stuart M. Ketchum Downtown YMCA opened in 1986 and is the largest not-for-profit community service organization in downtown Los Angeles. The YMCA's mission is to promote strong children and families, good health, a solid community, and a better world. The Downtown YMCA serves the downtown Los Angeles community and its geographic boundaries include parts of Central Los Angeles, Pico-Union, Westlake, and Bunker Hill. More than 250,000 people reside within a two-mile radius of the facility including 75,000 school-aged children. YMCA is well known for providing health and fitness to their members, but this organization also provides community development

programs such as summer resident camps; youth, teen and adult sports leagues; after school tutoring; career skills development; and computer labs.

In July 2003, the Conservancy authorized the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) to enter into a park lease and joint use agreement with Los Angeles Unified School District to develop Vista Hermosa Natural Park and a soccer field adjacent to a new school facility (the former Belmont Learning Center). It is proposed in the lease that MRCA will be responsible for the operation and management of Vista Hermosa Natural Park and soccer field. The MRCA has extensive experience in operating and managing natural parks and public open space areas, but staff have no experience in the management of soccer fields. Thus it is proposed that the soccer field at Vista Hermosa be managed and operated by the Stuart M. Ketchum Downtown YMCA. The Downtown YMCA opened the YMCA Field of Dreams Park in Pico Union/Westlake. At the Field of Dreams, Downtown YMCA provided organized activities such as football and soccer for youth, teen and adults. In the first year of operation the YMCA Field of Dreams Park provided programming to over 500 youth and adults, and was serving over 1,500 at its closing eight years later. The facility was privately owned and was eventually sold to Los Angeles Unified District to build Central High School #10.

The Downtown YMCA is an ideal partner for this project because they have extensive experience in operating fields and running organized youth sports programs, and bring specialized expertise in the development of recreational fields. This partnership provides a unique opportunity for both organizations to work together to provide both active and passive recreational activities for students and the community at Vista Hermosa Park.

The development and implementation of youth recreational programs at Vista Hermosa Park will be the responsibility of Downtown YMCA. Downtown YMCA will assist the Conservancy's efforts to plan and develop a strategic plan specifically for the soccer field at Vista Hermosa Park, and will prepare strategies to obtain additional funding targeted for recreational uses. The scope of work will include grant research, grant preparation, grant writing, and demographic studies.

V. PROJECT STATUS:

Project has been Cancelled.

Last year, the Governor's Office issued Executive Order S-4-03, which essentially was a "freeze" on new contracts. The Administration directed all agencies and departments to cease making new commitments for future expenditures. The Conservancy submitted several Freeze Exemption Requests prior to the end of the fiscal year, but most were not granted, including this project.

Additionally, the Conservancy has since been tasked with re-evaluating the nature of all its bond funded projects. It has been determined that the scope of work as described in the LA 36-Vista Hermosa project is not an eligible use of bond funds. Thus, this worthy project must unfortunately be cancelled.

It is our sincere hope that in the future we will be able to collaborate with the YMCA on other projects, and continue to partner in efforts to preserve open space and protect the natural resources of this State.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Acquisition

Project Name/Code: East Canyon Acquisition  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition  
Location/Park Name: Santa Clarita Woodlands Park

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$1,673,500  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 12, Proposition 40  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-0005, 3810-301-6029  
Board Actions (Date): 9/26/05  
Resolution Number: 05-073

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

The 4,000-acre Santa Clarita Woodlands Park contains a globally unique combination of tree species, perennial streams, spring wildflower displays, and abundant wildlife. The Woodlands are a critical component of a cross-mountain range wildlife habitat corridor that links the Santa Monica Mountains to the Angeles and Los Padres National Forests. The requested grant funds will be used to purchase a relatively level to sloping 11.97 acre parcel immediately to the north of the MRCA ownership at 23801 The Old Road.



The 23801 property at the mouth of East Canyon was purchased in 1990 from the owner of the subject property, Mr. Rex Holland. The original acquisition was made to preserve the critical wildlife corridor chokepoint near Gavin Canyon and the I-5. Funds to purchase the entire ownership were not available at that time. MRCA negotiated with the owner to purchase only 10 acres, leaving the 11.97-acre property as private land for a potential commercial site. The property is in unincorporated Los Angeles County and is zoned C-3, Commercial and R3P, Limited Multiple Residence. The entire parcel is within Los Angeles County Significant Ecological Area 20. It is within the Conservancy's Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor, and is included in the "Santa Clarita Woodlands Park Feasibility Study" conducted by the California Department of Parks and Recreation in 1990.

Although a portion of the property has some development with two structures (a 1948 small home and a 4,000 square foot concrete block warehouse), the larger part of the property has very good resource value thick with coast live oak, California walnut woodland, and valley oak habitat. The site encompasses the lower portion and mouth of Learning Canyon. The MRCA is in the process of obtaining a Phase I Environmental Assessment of the property under an option that expires on October 28, 2005. Close of escrow will occur within 45 days thereafter. Mr. Holland is a willing seller at fair market value. The State Department of General Services approved the appraisal value. The second option payment will be applied to the purchase price. Absent a sale to the MRCA, Mr. Holland has previously indicated that he will reactivate his plans to build a public storage facility on the property. Other allowable uses could be a church, retail, service, or office uses, or an auto, boat, or RV sales facility. A CEQA Notice of Exemption for the fee acquisition was filed in February 2005.

V. PROJECT STATUS:

A Phase I Environmental Assessment was completed for the property in October of 2005, finding the property free of environmental liabilities. Pursuant to the Option Agreement for Purchase and Sale and Escrow Instructions, dated July 27, 2004, the option to purchase was exercised on October 26, 2005. Due to the untimely death of Paul Rex Holland, the time period for the closing of escrow was extended to allow his wife, Linda Holland, the time to procure the necessary documentation to complete the transaction as the legal representative of the estate of her late husband. That paperwork was received on

January 9, 2006. The MRCA submitted on February 16, 2006 the paperwork to the SMMC requesting that the balance of the purchase price be deposited directly into escrow.

Escrow closed on the property on March 27, 2006. The Project is Complete.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Acquisition

Project Name/Code: East Canyon Rex Holland  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition  
Location/Park Name:

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$54,495  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 40  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029  
Board Actions (Date): 7/28/03  
Resolution Number: 03-126

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: \$ 500,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 40  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029  
Board Actions (Date): 7/28/03  
Resolution Number: 03-126  
Total Grant Amount: \$104,495

IV. NARRATIVE:

V. PROJECT STATUS:

Complete

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Acquisition

Project Name/Code: Long Canyon - Santa Clara River Acquisition  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition  
Location/Park Name: Soledad Canyon

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$163,485.00  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 40  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029  
Board Actions (Date): 9/27/04  
Resolution Number: 04-77

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

Acquisition of two properties comprising approximately 220 acres in the Soledad Canyon watershed, a tributary of the Santa Clara River. The acquisition will protect significant land and water resources because the subject 220 acres occupy the majority of area in the Long Canyon tributary of Soledad Canyon. All but one 5-acre parcel are part of a single ownership, and the entire property is within the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor within the most recent expansion area. The 215-acre property (12 parcels) is currently on the market for \$350,000. A separate 5-acre property is also on the market for \$8,000. Project partners include the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC), and California Department of Fish and Game.

These properties represent perhaps the most easily developable area in the multi-thousand acre habitat area between the Angeles National Forest and State Route 14 (SR-14). The property is located immediately east of approximately 10 occupied homesites that take access from Briggs Road, an official County Road. Those sites have all-weather access as well as telephone and electrical services. The next growth area is the subject property, which includes almost 3,000 feet of a USGS blueline stream.

In addition to protecting the land and water resources of the Soledad Canyon watershed, the proposed acquisition will improve recreational opportunities. Much of the Long Canyon-Santa Clara River property can be reached by a series of dirt roads that will serve as excellent public trails, and the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) comes within 1,600 feet of the northeast property corner. A well maintained BLM road connects the subject property to the PCT to the east. A continuation of this same road connects all the way to Agua Dulce Canyon Road.

The Long Canyon-Santa Clara River property is part of a major Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP) being prepared by the RMC in conjunction with MRCA. The north-south oriented ownership provides a key wildlife and recreational corridor from the upper Santa Clara River to the portion of the Angeles National Forest located north of SR-14. Intermediary to the two Agua Dulce Creek undercrossings beneath SR-14, the subject property abuts a large, 880-acre Bureau of Land Management (BLM) holding. The 215-acre property includes a recently acquired easement across the Oasis Campground and the Santa Clara River to Soledad Canyon Road. The Long Canyon drainage supports a rich riparian plant community at its lower reaches. The drainage transitions into a dry ephemeral wash flora midway up the canyon, where the upland area supports a transitional scrub flora with chaparral and high desert woody shrubs.

The proposed acquisition would be funded by \$150,000 of the requested Proposition 40 funding and \$208,000 of the MRCA's eligible in-lieu funds. The property is eligible for riparian in-lieu fee funding because it includes almost 3,000 feet of the Long Canyon drainage bottom, a USGS blueline stream. The local California Department of Fish and Game staff members that interface with our staff on the in-lieu fee mitigation program are fully supportive of the proposed acquisition in the CAPP. Those staff members have also been integral to the preparation of the CAPP. The RMC staff is also in full support of this acquisition

V. PROJECT STATUS:  
Project is Complete

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Acquisition

Project Name/Code: Sierra Madre Linkage Protection Plan  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

#### I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition  
Location/Park Name: Los Angeles and Ventura Counties

#### II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: South Coast Wildlands  
Total Grant Amount: \$30,000.00  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 40  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029  
Board Actions (Date): 1/24/05  
Resolution Number: 05-09

#### III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

#### IV. NARRATIVE:

In 2001, the South Coast Wildlands Project (SCWP) released its landmark study, entitled, "Missing Linkages". The study describes dozens of critical regional habitat linkages in the South Coast Ecoregion which extends from the Tehachapi Mountains to the Mexican border. Subsequent analysis identified the 15 most endangered linkages in the region. Since that time, SWCP has begun to systematically prepare detailed linkage reports on these 15 linkages. Much of the work done by SCWP was funded by grants from the Resources Agency. Several of the subject reports are completed and can be downloaded on the SCWP website ([scwildlands.org](http://scwildlands.org)). In some cases related linkages are combined into a single report. "A Linkage Design for the San Gabriel - Castaic

Connection" is completed. It covers the connection between the San Gabriel Mountains northward across the upper Santa Clara River watershed (Soledad Canyon\_ to the portions of the Angeles National Forest east of Interstate 5. The methodology results, and conservation value of the documents is first rate.

Staff, The Nature Conservancy, and other agencies have greatly documented most of the linkage connections between the Santa Monica Mountains, the Simi Hills, and the Santa Susana Mountains. The "Missing Linkages" report addresses this multi-mountain range linkage as the Sierra Madre to Santa Monica Mountains Linkage and ties the three southern ranges into the Sierra Madre Mountains north of Highway 126 and the Santa Clara River. In some cases that documentation is parcel specific such as along the 101 Freeway between the Santa Susana Mountains and along the 118 Freeway in the Santa Susana Pass. Caltrans also recently completed (2004) an in-depth study of habitat linkages across the 118 Freeway between the Santa Susana Mountains and the Simi Hills. Likewise Caltrans is contemplating long range plans for new and enhanced freeway crossing structures along the relevant portions of the 118 and 101 Freeways.

The Conservancy's adopted Acquisition Workprogram includes all of the subject Sierra Madre to Santa Monica Mountains Linkage except for areas west of Lake Piru in the Sierra Madre Mountains and west of Happy Camp Canyon Park in the Santa Susana Mountains. It is critical to both the interests of the California Department of Parks and Recreation and the Conservancy to protect adequate lands in this overall linkage to ensure the long term ecological viability of over 40,000 acres of State Park property in the Santa Monica Mountains and the majority of the Santa Monica Mountains Zone, respectively. With limited capital outlay funding left for either agency, it is vital that a few strategic land acquisitions be made to keep the linkage functional. Likewise it is of great importance for both agencies to understand where less than fee acquisitions or developer dedications could accomplish adequate linkage protection.

SCWP has already done substantial work on the Sierra Madre to Santa Monica Linkage. This work also includes individual species suitability analyses overseen by top experts for each target species. SCWP also has extensive GIS capability. With development rapidly squeezing the subject linkage from all sides, the preparation of a minimum acquisition needs priority parcel report is essential for both agencies to accomplish adequate strategic protection. SCWP is uniquely suited to accomplish this work in a short time frame. The proposed strategic parcel acquisition

plan would lead directly to acquisitions in the linkage using Proposition 40 and/or Proposition 50 funding. In addition it would lead to the acquisition of conservation easements and fee simple interest in land resources via donation or dedication of property.

- V. **PROJECT STATUS:**  
Project is Complete



## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Acquisition

Project Name/Code: Tuna Canyon  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition  
Location/Park Name: Tuna Canyon

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$5,754,672  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 40  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-310-6029  
Board Actions (Date): 9/22/03  
Resolution Number: 03-155

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

V. PROJECT STATUS:  
Complete

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Acquisition

Project Name/Code: Zorro's Cabin  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

#### I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition  
Location/Park Name: Santa Susana Mountains

#### II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District  
Total Grant Amount: \$100,00.00  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 40  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029  
Board Actions (Date): 2/27/06  
Resolution Number: 06-14

#### III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

#### IV. NARRATIVE:

The Zorro's Cabin Parcel is the location where the 1950s Disney Studios television version of Zorro was filmed. It consists of two parcels totaling 6.1 acres. The subject parcels are located south of Santa Susana Pass Road, southwest of Santa Susana Pass State Historical Park, east of Box Canyon Road, and north of Chatsworth Lake Manor. This picturesque property contains numerous oak trees and unique rock formations. Native American pictographs and rare plants have been discovered on the site, and fairy shrimp come to life in the natural pools which form after the rains. While the majority of the site has level terrain, its hillside location provides beautiful vistas of the San Fernando Valley.

The original structure that served as Zorro's hideaway is still standing, and is in remarkably sound condition, except for the need to do repairs to the roof. The cabin was built using authentic adobe brick acquired for a brick company located in the Vasquez Rocks area shortly before the company discontinued adobe brick production.

The 5.21-acre parcel has been appraised under the direction of the SMMC at \$150,000 and the .89-acre parcel at \$100,000, for a total appraised value of \$250,000. The property is currently owned by a partnership consisting of three individuals which has been established an asking price of \$300,000 for the property.

V. **PROJECT STATUS:**  
Project has been Cancelled.

The District has been unable to reach an agreement with the owners of the property to acquire the property. The District will be looking for another suitable property for acquisition in the immediate area.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Education and Interpretation

Project Name/Code: Education and Interpretation  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Interpretation  
Location/Park Name: Multiple

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$435,960.00  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 40  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029  
Board Actions (Date): 8/25/03  
Resolution Number: 03-128

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

V. PROJECT STATUS:

Complete

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvements

Project Name/Code: Angeles National Forest Overlook and Exhibit Project  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvement  
Location/Park Name: Angeles National Forest

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$500,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 40  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029  
Board Actions (Date): 4/24/06  
Resolution Number: 06-32

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

Design and implementation of overlooks and wayside exhibits along Highway 2 and Highway 39 that will serve as an entrance to the scenic byway. Improvements will include an entrance sign to the forest and scenic byway, fencing, planting of native trees, shrubs, and ground cover, and interpretive exhibits and will be implemented at both existing overlooks and at new sites. These improvements will be designed in close cooperation with the staff of the Angeles National Forest and the Angeles Crest Scenic Highway Corridor Management Plan.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvement

Project Name/Code: Center for Community Forestry  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvement  
Location/Park Name: Coldwater Canyon Park

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: TreePeople  
Total Grant Amount: \$250,000.00  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 40  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029  
Board Actions (Date): 9/22/03  
Resolution Number: 03-163

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

On September 22, 2003, the Conservancy granted \$250,000 of Proposition 40 matching grant funds for Phase I of the development for the Center for Community Forestry. Proposition 50, the Water Quality, Supply and Safe Drinking Water Projects, Coastal Wetlands Purchase and Protection Act designates in Section 79571 that ten percent of the money allocated to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy in Section 79570 Coastal Watershed and Wetland Protection:

“shall be used for grants for the acquisition and development of facilities to promote public awareness and participation in the conservation of land, water, and wildlife resources. Eligible projects include...Nature centers that are in or adjacent to watersheds and wetlands identified for

protection pursuant to this chapter, that provide wildlife viewing, outdoor experiences, and conservation and education programs to the public and to students. Priority shall be given to projects that are operated by or in cooperation with nonprofit organizations and are designated to serve children from urban areas that lack access to natural areas and outdoor education programs.”

The TreePeople Center for Community Forestry perfectly fits this description. Situated in Coldwater Canyon Park, the site has views to downtown Los Angeles as well as being nestled in a mountain ecosystem, still intact. The site straddles both the Ballona Creek and Los Angeles River Watersheds; significant efforts are underway in both of these watersheds to protect and restore them. Education and volunteerism, are at the very heart of TreePeople’s mission. Their K-12 education programs raise environmental awareness, enrich academic lessons and teach important life skills. While their forestry programs restore watersheds and fragile habitats, they also heal inner city communities, bring neighbors together, cool and green campuses, and address serious urban issues such as water and energy conservation, flood protection and storm water pollution.

The Center for Community Forestry will demonstrate sustainable facilities and cutting-edge technologies that can help Los Angeles save water and energy and become a healthier place to live. The Center will allow TreePeople to expand its efforts to provide high-quality environmental education, programs and services in neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles.

For thirty years, TreePeople has been reaching out to the urban neighborhoods of Los Angeles and training residents to become responsible foresters. This will provide a state-of-the-art facility that everyone can come to, be inspired, and learn how to care for the urban ecosystem and take back home the knowledge and skills to apply these lessons back home. As partners with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, the center will also provide a venue for education on their joint watershed protection and integrated regional water management program.

- V. PROJECT STATUS:  
Project is Complete

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvement

Project Name/Code: Franklin Improvements  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvements  
Location/Park Name: Franklin

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$200,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 40  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029  
Board Actions (Date): 1/23/06  
Resolution Number: 06-05

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: \$250,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 11/26/07  
Resolution Number: 07-102  
Total Grant Amount: \$450,000

IV. NARRATIVE:

V. PROJECT STATUS:

On-going



## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvements

Project Name/Code: Development of Historic McCrea Ranch

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvement

Location/Park Name: Joel McCrea Ranch

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: Conejo Recreation and Park District

Total Grant Amount: \$750,000

Funding Source(s): Proposition 40

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029

Board Actions (Date): 10/24/05

Resolution Number: 05-082

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A

Funding Source(s):

Item of Appropriation:

Board Actions (Date):

Resolution Number:

Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

In 1995, Conejo Recreation & Park District acquired the once residence and working ranch of the legendary film actor, Joel McCrea. With assistance of RRM Design Group in 1998, a Master Plan was developed to outline the future development of the site, keeping in mind the District's goal to preserve the historical character and working ranch atmosphere. The physical park elements that were identified include historical buildings, lake, restored riparian habitat, hiking, and equestrian trails, amphitheater, corrals, agricultural fields, day camp facilities, and parking.

The development, in terms of this grant request, will focus on the central portion of the ranch, approximately 25 acres. This will involve

construction of a 4-acre lake and picnic area. Roads and parking will be constructed to provide necessary infrastructure to access the lake and surrounding facilities. This access will also support other destinations such as the foreman's house and main ranch house, both to be painted as part of this phase of improvements. (Previously completed work of these structures involved relocation of the foreman's house and seismic retrofitting of the main house).

Construction of the lake will create a habitat for fish, amphibians, migratory birds, particularly waterfowl, and other wildlife. A water clarification system is included in the design to augment the lake's natural ecology with mechanical systems to attain and maintain excellent water quality and clarity. Connected with the lake design, is improvement of an existing watercourse. Natural drainage patterns across the property offer an excellent opportunity to renovate the creek and restore the riparian habitat.

The central portion of the ranch is a narrow valley surrounded by slopes in excess of 20%. These slopes are suitable for the trail construction planned, the tops of which provide magnificent views of the Pacific Ocean, Tierra Rejada, and Los Posas Valley, the White Face Mountains of Simi Valley and the Joel McCrea Nature Preserve. The high vantage points also afford excellent views of the McCrea main residence and the historic compound.

A detailed program was developed for McCrea Ranch to create unique recreational resources for the local and regional community. Indeed, it will attract historical McCrea and western heritage enthusiasts throughout Southern California and beyond. The Master Plan identifies and incorporates several District and community based programs and activities, each centered around a different area of the park. For instance, the Lake Area, will host day camp activities, fishing, outdoor concerts at the amphitheater, plays, storytelling, and interpretation of natural systems. The Working Historical Compound will offer lectures and living history, restored historical buildings and bunkhouse, farm machinery, antique car show area, petting zoo, galleries, and docent and administration offices. There are programming ideas as well for the Picnic Area, Trail System, Corrals, McCrea Residence, Foreman House, and youth activity facilities. The placement and configuration of the various park elements were carefully considered to address the specific types of activities noted in the Plan.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvement

Project Name/Code: Heart of the Park Shuttle Demonstration Project

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvement

Location/Park Name: Multiple

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority

Total Grant Amount: \$217,980.00

Funding Source(s): Proposition 40

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029

Board Actions (Date): 7/28/03

Resolution Number: 03-123

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A

Funding Source(s):

Item of Appropriation:

Board Actions (Date):

Resolution Number:

Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

The National Park Service, California Department of Parks and Recreation, the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, and the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors have collaborated for the past three years to design and launch an innovative fixed-route shuttle service demonstration project in the Santa Monica Mountains. As part of its contribution to the National Park Service and other partners' efforts, in July 2003 the Conservancy granted \$217,980 to the MRCA. The MRCA's contract with a transportation service provider is the most critical-to-success- part of the demonstration project. Please note that the SMM-03123 grant name uses the original name of the

project, “Heart of the Park Shuttle” although the joint project is now called parkLINK.

The grant and the parkLINK shuttle demonstration project have multi-faceted goals to: Link parklands and trails; increase visitation and accessibility to the mountain parks; introduce the parklands to currently under-served communities, especially members who may be unfamiliar with the parks and resources of the Santa Monica Mountains; provide for the preservation of natural resources and protection of parklands through interpretation and appreciation of those resources; provide a recreation transportation alternative to auto use to get to parks and trails; link with municipal and regional bus services; promote outdoor recreation opportunities for families and individuals; protect park resources such as water quality, air quality, and scenic viewsheds by reducing automobile traffic and emissions in the mountains.

Funding for the pilot project has also been collaborative. Beside the Conservancy’s grant to the MRCA for the shuttle project, the National Park Service purchased the five clean-diesel 30-passenger shuttle buses and funded the construction of the shuttle stops and the installation of the wayside displays and interpretive materials; State Parks and Los Angeles County provided onsite construction assistance, continue with ranger/maintenance patrol of the shuttle stops, and of course help with the ongoing multi-agency project consultation and assistance with all phases of the project including public information.

Launch of the shuttle service was delayed by nearly a year from the anticipated start in the summer of 2004, due to delays in the manufacture of the Park Service’s buses, and again when the original transportation company contractor opted out of its contract with MRCA in early March of 2005 just weeks before the spring launch date. Although MRCA had a legally binding, enforceable contract with the MV Transportation, MV did retain the right to cancel with the notice given. However MRCA, National Park Service, and the partners were able to quickly readvertise and recirculate the Request for Proposals, and the winning bidder was the international transportation company Connex. MRCA and Connex entered into a new contract after the MRCA Governing Board approved the contract, and the Connex was able to rapidly mobilize to accommodate the agencies’ Fourth of July weekend launch of service.

The first four months of the agencies’ collaborative efforts have been a success. The shuttle service operates bi-directionally every Saturday, Sunday and holiday, approximately 8am to dusk, on a fixed route, every half-hour schedule, with parking areas, shuttle stops, wayside displays and nature kiosks at Malibu Creek State Park, Malibu Canyon Backbone Trail

parking lot, Tapia Park, Malibu Lagoon, Malibu Cross-Creek; Corral Canyon Park; Solstice Canyon Park; Zuma Beach; Kanan-Dune Backbone Trailhead, Peter Strauss Ranch, and Paramount Ranch. Information on the shuttle with a route map and schedule is available on the Internet at [www.nps.gov/SAMO/shuttle](http://www.nps.gov/SAMO/shuttle). The agencies have ongoing efforts to widely inform the public about recreational service.

Ridership surveys were undertaken by Connex and the Park Service, and provided some information that preliminarily has validated the agencies' goals. For just one example, 33% of the riders have never been to the parks of the Santa Monica Mountains National recreation Area before responding to the news stories about the parkLINK and riding the shuttle to the parks. A substantial number of riders came to the parkLINK via MTA bus connections downtown. A park visitor can get off at any stop or ride the whole loop for the introductory rate of one dollar. Hikers or bicyclists can start at one part of the Backbone Trail and then be picked up at another segment. Wheelchair users and the elderly have increased accessibility to either ride the whole scenic loop, or disembark easily at parks and beaches, spend time at the park location, then reboard another bus for return.

In addition to the interpretive materials for riders, the Connex team and drivers have all been given a class on the parks and resources in order to provide information to riders. The National Park Service has recently provided two Task Agreements to the MRCA to augment the Conservancy's grant, to provide for extra vehicle repairs out of warranty, interpretive materials printing costs, and the like. If the three year project is deemed a success, the Park Service anticipates that other federal transportation funds may allow expansion of the program and service to the park-using public.

V. **PROJECT STATUS:**  
Project is Complete.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvement

Project Name/Code: Le Mesnager Barn  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvement  
Location/Park Name: Glendale

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Glendale  
Total Grant Amount: \$ 200,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 40  
Item of Appropriation: 3801-301-6029  
Board Actions (Date): 3/24/03  
Resolution Number: 03-46

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: \$ 1,000,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 40  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029  
Board Actions (Date): 9/26/05  
Resolution Number: 05-069  
Total Grant Amount: \$1,200,000

IV. NARRATIVE:

V. PROJECT STATUS:

Complete

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvements

Project Name/Code: Mentryville Capital Improvements

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

#### I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvement

Location/Park Name: Pico Canyon

#### II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority

Total Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

Funding Source(s): Proposition 40

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029

Board Actions (Date): 6/5/07

Resolution Number: 07-45

#### III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A

Funding Source(s):

Item of Appropriation:

Board Actions (Date):

Resolution Number:

Total Grant Amount:

#### IV. NARRATIVE:

Located at the base of Pico Canyon's chaparral dominated slopes, Mentryville was an 1880's oil boomtown built around its oil well, Pico No. 4. Named for Charles Alexander Mentry, the oil well's tenacious driller – and later superintendent of the company that would become Chevron – Mentryville was home to over 100 families until the early 1930's. Pico No. 4 went on to become the longest continually operating oil well in the world, closing in 1990. Historic buildings still stand including Charles Mentry's grand thirteen-room mansion, a one-room schoolhouse, and a period barn.

The MRCA has already done significant construction to stabilize and protect the historic Superintendent's House, the barn and the schoolhouse. An architect and engineer, specializing in historic structures, prepared plans for new building foundations, which were installed by MRCA staff. Staff installed new fire-resistant roofs. Other exterior finishes were put in place.

Pico Canyon burned in the fires of October 2003. MRCA staff and outside fire departments saved all the structures in the town. The storms of winter 2004-2005 also took their toll. The stream washed out the roads in several places. Mud flowed down around and under the Superintendent's House. MRCA staff using FEMA funds has removed most of the debris left by the storms and has repaired the major stream crossings.

As Santa Clarita and Newhall continue to develop, more and more people will be coming to use this incredible resource. The MRCA currently has two grants from Los Angeles County Proposition A to create new trails in Pico Canyon. In conjunction with these trail projects, the MRCA would like to develop further public-serving amenities at Mentryville. Some of these elements include public restrooms, picnic areas, and interpretive signage. Accessible walkways through the historic town would create a more cohesive visitor experience. While the historic structures have been stabilized, they require further restoration particularly to their interiors. To provide superior site security, a new ranger residence should be re-sited and constructed. Additionally, the MRCA would like to build a replacement for the town's original recreation hall. Clearly, Mentryville is a park full of possibilities. The MRCA has made some good progress in developing this unique facility. A program for development of structures and park amenities needs to be fully fleshed out. These Prop 40 grant funds would be used for project planning, design and some initial capital improvements.



## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvement

Project Name/Code: Minor Capital Outlay  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvement  
Location/Park Name: Various

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$ 65,394  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 40  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029  
Board Actions (Date): 8/25/2003  
Resolution Number: 03-130

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

V. PROJECT STATUS:

Complete

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvement

Project Name/Code: Minor Capital Outlay and Resource Protection  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvement  
Location/Park Name: Various

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$468,800.00  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 40  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029  
Board Actions (Date): 1/23/06  
Resolution Number: 06-06

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

Major Maintenance, repairs, and installation of protective structures (gates, fencing, rock barriers) to restore and protect natural land and water resources and related park facilities and to improve safety and enhance useful life of park facilities; work to include but not limited to roadways, parking areas, signs & displays, restrooms, fencing, gates, buildings, and water systems & irrigation.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) operates and manages dozens of park sites located throughout Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Normal wear and tear, vandalism, deterioration, and heavy public use levels can at times result in the need for major maintenance and repair of these parks to provide for continued

safe and functional park facilities. Currently, a major backlog in park major maintenance and repairs exists due to years of deferred maintenance and the conditions listed above. Furthermore, the amount of needed repairs is far greater than what routine maintenance funding and personnel resources can provide. A small percentage of the grant funding will be used to purchase related equipment, which is durable, and in most situation will be less cost than renting said equipment for the duration of the project.

V.     **PROJECT STATUS:**  
Project is Complete

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvements

Project Name/Code: Towsley Canyon Capital Improvements

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvement

Location/Park Name: Towsley Canyon

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority

Total Grant Amount: \$250,000.00

Funding Source(s): Proposition 40

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029

Board Actions (Date): 6/5/07

Resolution Number: 07-44

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A

Funding Source(s):

Item of Appropriation:

Board Actions (Date):

Resolution Number:

Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

Towsley Canyon offers numerous visitor serving amenities with easy access just off the I-5 freeway. Trails for hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian use lead visitors through an astonishing variety of habitat types. Towsley Lodge sits atop a large green knoll surrounded by cottonwoods. The lodge is used by visitors for meetings, weddings, and small group overnights. Towsley Canyon burned in the fires of October 2003. MRCA staff saved the structures in the canyon including the lodge. In the heavy storms of the 2004-05 winter, the road in the park was damaged where it crossed the creek. The road has been repaired using FEMA funds.

While most of the facilities in the park are currently functional, some select capital improvements will make the park into a prime destination. Renovations need to be made to the Towsley Lodge including but not limited to roof repair, restroom renovation, new HVAC systems, lighting upgrades, replacement of exterior and interior finishes, and new meeting and overnight furniture.

The large, shady lawn that spreads out just below the lodge serves as a lovely informal picnic area and special event space. The large trees in the lawn and in the surrounding landscape suffered in the 2003 fire. Some need to be removed and replaced with new trees such as sycamores and oaks. Irrigation to the lawn and planted areas also needs to be improved. Additional capital expenditures are necessary to provide safe and enjoyable public access including some new fencing and interpretive signage.

It is anticipated that the improvements to the park would be completed by both in-house staff and outside consultants.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvements

Project Name/Code: Trails Restoration & Resource Protection

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

#### I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvement

Location/Park Name: Various

#### II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority

Total Grant Amount: \$330,000.00

Funding Source(s): Proposition 40

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029

Board Actions (Date): 5/22/06

Resolution Number: 06-41

#### III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A

Funding Source(s):

Item of Appropriation:

Board Actions (Date):

Resolution Number:

Total Grant Amount:

#### IV. NARRATIVE:

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority operates and manages dozens of park sites located throughout Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Most of these parks include trail systems that are subject to degradation over time as a result of erosion, vegetation overgrowth, slope instability, depreciative activities, and heavy public use levels. A major backlog in trail restoration and repair needs exists due to years of deferred maintenance and the conditions listed above. Furthermore, the amount of needed trail system repairs is far greater than what routine maintenance funding and personnel resources can provide. Deferred major restoration and repairs to trail systems and trailheads. Restoration efforts will include reestablishment of eroded trail surfaces,

removal of vegetation overgrowth, stabilization of slopes, replacement of worn features, installation of regulatory & informational signage, and other related repairs as needed. A percentage of the grant funding will be used to purchase durable equipment which will be utilized in the repair process. These purchases will be less costly than renting said equipment for the duration of the project.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvement

Project Name/Code: Urban Interface Wildlife conservation

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvement

Location/Park Name: Multiple

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority

Total Grant Amount: \$ 30,000

Funding Source(s): Proposition 40

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029

Board Actions (Date): 10/27/03

Resolution Number: 03-175

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A

Funding Source(s):

Item of Appropriation:

Board Actions (Date):

Resolution Number:

Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

V. PROJECT STATUS:

Complete



## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvements

Project Name/Code: West Mulholland Watershed Demonstration Project  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvement  
Location/Park Name: Santa Monica Mountains

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$1,600,000.00  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 12, Proposition 40, Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-0005, 3810-301-6029, 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 7/25/05  
Resolution Number: 05-054

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

The proposed project will improve public facilities at the West Mulholland Watershed Demonstration Project. Park features will include native tree, shrub, and groundcover landscaping, state-of-the-art permeable and semi-permeable surfaces, the creation of a stream and bioswale within the existing fill soil and reintroduction of riparian plants, solar irrigation system, hiking trails, a 70-car parking lot, picnic benches and shelters, interpretive kiosks, composting restroom facilities, a state-of-the-art, low impact ranger residence (approx. 1400 sq. ft.) and interpretive facility (1000 sq. ft.), and an outdoor classroom.

The West Mulholland Watershed Demonstration Project is located in the City of Los Angeles, along the dirt portion of Mulholland Drive in the Santa Monica Mountains approximately 0.75 miles east of Topanga Canyon Boulevard. The Property abuts Mulholland Drive on the northwest, with hillside residential neighborhoods extending in that direction from this point. Open space or parkland surrounds the park in all other directions, connecting to Summit Valley/Ed Edelman Park, Topanga State Park, and Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park. The current land use is vacant.

The project site was graded for development in the 1960's via importation of fill soil. The park development site is nestled at the bottom of natural bowl, and from the upper hills are scenic vistas to the north. The approximately 1.75 acre fill pad supports mostly weedy annual species, and is not visible from Mulholland Drive because of an on-site detention basin and berm. The site is located within the Mulholland Scenic Parkway viewshed.

The proposed project will utilize an irrigation system run by a solar pump and timer. The proposed ranger residence, outdoor classroom, composting restrooms, parking, interpretive center, and interpretive kiosks all feature state-of-the-art, low-impact sustainable designs to blend in with the natural character of the site, and will be augmented with native trees and landscaping.

This application includes a budget divided into the two primary tasks, Planning and Construction. However, the MRCA requests that the budgets between tasks be flexible, so long as the total expenses do not exceed the grant amount

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvements

Project Name/Code: Westridge Trailhead Improvements (Upper Mandeville Canyon)

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvement  
Location/Park Name: Mandeville Canyon

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$150,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 40  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029  
Board Actions (Date): 4/25/05  
Resolution Number: 05-035

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

When the MRCA purchased the Boechman property with the City of Los Angeles, the MRCA agreed to provide parking and other amenities for the trailhead. After several design proposals, neighborhood meetings, and assistance from the Los Angeles City Council Office of Cindy Miscikowki, MRCA staff, with assistance from the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering, have proposed a workable conceptual design for the site.

The project will provide 14 parking spaces at the terminus of Westridge Road, Los Angeles, and 16 new spaces before the gate at the Nike Site, San Vicente Park, Los Angeles. As part of the improvements, an entry

gate, kiosk, rule signs, and other amenities will be designed. The design will be presented to the Proposition K Steering Committee for final approval. After this last step, the project will proceed with construction documents and construction. Construction is expected to be complete in summer 2005.

Currently, visitors park on neighborhood streets and have caused some damage to the natural resources of Upper Mandeville Canyon. The geological composition is disintegrated granite, and is very susceptible to erosion. The original agreement asked for 30 parking spaces at the Westridge entry. Geologic studies and preliminary designs found that creating a parking lot of this size would be environmentally detrimental to viewsheds and require extensive grading which could contribute to future erosion and slope failures. To protect the two large watersheds that would be heavily affected by this size project, the parking was reduced and moved closer to the two access roads, minimizing construction impacts and grading. By providing a designated parking area and concentrating durable visitor amenities at the trailhead entries, the project will result in the protection of land by minimizing vehicle access and protect water resources by localizing construction and grading terminus of Westridge and San Vicente Park. All improvements will be designed to take advantage of sustainable construction practices where possible.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Interpretation

Project Name/Code: Ballona Wetlands Public Access and Conservation Education  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Interpretation  
Location/Park Name: Ballona Wetlands

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$316,000.00  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 40  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029  
Board Actions (Date): 4/24/06  
Resolution Number: 06-33

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

A two year ranger program promoting safe public access and providing outdoor experiences and conservation education of children from urban areas that lack access to natural areas at the Ballona Wetlands, including community outreach and interpretive programming tailored to the specifics of the site which will include ranger reports at community meetings, junior ranger and youth activities, interpretive programs, restoration programs, and interpretive signage. The MRCA will focus on new programs or areas of the 600 acre state property on which no programs exist.

A non-profit grants program to support and expand the efforts of non-profit organizations that currently provide programming at the Ballona Wetlands.

- V. **PROJECT STATUS:**  
Ongoing.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Interpretation

Project Name/Code: Interpretation of Land, Air, Water

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

#### I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Interpretation

Location/Park Name: Various

#### II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority

Total Grant Amount: \$278,212.00

Funding Source(s): Proposition 40

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029

Board Actions (Date): 9/27/04

Resolution Number: 04-82

#### III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: \$564,401.00

Funding Source(s): Proposition 40

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029

Board Actions (Date): 9/26/05

Resolution Number: 05-072

Total Grant Amount: \$842,613.00

Amendment Amount: \$550,000

Funding Source(s): Proposition 40

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029

Board Actions (Date): 6/26/06

Resolution Number: 06-53

Total Grant Amount: \$1,392,613.00

#### IV. NARRATIVE:

At the April 2004 meeting a grant of Proposition 40 funds was authorized to the Friends of the Conservancy for Interpretive Services which included both natural and cultural history. The authorizing resolution for that grant is being amended so that Friends of the Conservancy will only

be responsible for cultural and historical interpretation and funded through an alternate funding source.

Staff requests that the Proposition 40 funds be reallocated to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the interpretation of land, air, and water at Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve, Temescal Gateway Park, Franklin Canyon Park, Mentryville, Towsley Canyon, and Ramirez Canyon. The MRCA has provided interpretive services in parks under the jurisdiction of the Conservancy for over 17 years and has demonstrated an expertise and specific knowledge of that parkland. It therefore has been determined that it increases both efficiency and program continuity to have these programs carried out by the MRCA. For the purpose of this grant, interpretation includes any exhibits, displays, kiosks, brochures, docent interpretive programs, ranger interpretive programs, and written materials on land, air, and water resources directly relating to a Conservancy project or parkland.

All programs will target regional audiences from our City's most impacted urban areas. The services that will be provided include:

1. Interpretation of land, air, and water resources at Temescal Gateway Park, including written materials, docent interpretive programs, and ranger interpretive programs. These programs will directly relate to the Park's natural history and water resources.
2. Interpretation of land, air, and water resources at Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve. This program directly relates to the Park's rich natural resources. Programming will focus on interpretation of the site's endangered species, ecology, importance in the watershed, conservation, biodiversity, Mediterranean ecosystems, wildlife corridors, and fire ecology.
3. Interpretation of land, air, and water resources at Mentryville. This program directly relates to the Park's unique geology and natural resources. Interpretation will focus on endangered species, ecology, watersheds, conservation, geology, biodiversity, Mediterranean ecosystems, wildlife corridors, and fire ecology.
4. Interpretation of land, air and water resources at Towsley Canyon. This program directly relates to the Park's rich natural resources. Interpretation will focus on endangered species, ecology, watersheds, conservation, geology, biodiversity, Mediterranean ecosystems, wildlife corridors, and fire ecology.



5. Interpretation of land, air and water resources at Franklin Canyon Park. This program directly relates to the Park's water resources, including the Franklin Canyon Reservoir and the Heavenly Pond. Additionally, programs focus on natural resource conservation and the dynamics of urban/wildland interfaces.

6. Interpretation of land, air and water resources at Ramirez Canyon Park. This program directly relates to the Park's unique natural resources. Interpretation will focus on endangered species, ecology, watersheds, conservation, geology, biodiversity, Mediterranean ecosystems, wildlife corridors, and fire ecology.

V. PROJECT STATUS:  
Project is ongoing.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Interpretation

Project Name/Code: King Gillette Ranch Development and Interpretation

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Interpretation

Location/Park Name: King Gillette Ranch

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority

Total Grant Amount: \$150,000

Funding Source(s): Proposition 40

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029

Board Actions (Date): 4/30/07

Resolution Number: 07-30

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A

Funding Source(s):

Item of Appropriation:

Board Actions (Date):

Resolution Number:

Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

Development and interpretation of land and water resources at King Gillette Ranch. Scope of work shall include, but is not limited to interpretive signage, display and brochure design, including production and installation of the displays and brochures. Fencing and installation of other visitor control devices to protect some of the structures and the grounds. The King Gillette Ranch site is an ideal venue for the implementation of interpretive programs on the land, air and water resources of the Santa Monica Mountains and the King Gillette site specifically. Offerings include overnight programs, field trips and public programs, all which provide meaningful outdoor experiences to children who have limited access and experience in the natural world as well as the

general public. Programs and activities are presented with emphasis on the unique Mediterranean ecosystem and the seven native plant communities, the watershed, illustrated by King Gillette Ranch's intermittent and perennial stream, fire ecology and the dynamic local history, both human and geological.

King Gillette Ranch is a regional resource, and interpretive programs at the site will be developed and presented as an integral part of the academic year for both local schools and students from all reaches of Los Angeles County.

The residential programs curriculum:

- Meets state and federal education benchmarks in the areas of science, math and history.
- Features outdoor hands-on experience and minds-on discovery.
- Is an interdisciplinary approach, incorporating multiple learning styles, allows students to learn through integrating language arts, creative arts, math, science, and history.

To facilitate these public residential programs, the MRCA will need to acquire furniture including beds, conference tables and chairs, dining tables and chairs and food service equipment.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Project Planning and Design

Project Name/Code: Charles and Lotte Melhorn Overlook, Phase II, Mulholland  
Scenic Parkway  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Project Planning and Design  
Location/Park Name: Mulholland Scenic Parkway

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$17,000.00  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 40  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029  
Board Actions (Date): 8/28/06  
Resolution Number: 06-62

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority completed Phase I improvements to the Charles and Lotte Melhorn Overlook on the Mulholland Scenic Parkway (Parkway) last winter. Since its opening, the Melhorn Overlook has become very popular with visitors to the Parkway. This has caused an unfortunate side effect of overuse and damage to the site. Phase II improvements are planned that will increase the amount of parking spaces, install durable species of native plants, and reconfigure the site as needed to manage the high volume of use.

The requested funding would be used for project planning and design activities for the creation of construction plans and specifications for the Phase II improvements.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Project Planning and Design

Project Name/Code: East San Rafael Mountains  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Project Planning and Design  
Location/Park Name: San Rafael

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Trust for Public Land  
Total Grant Amount: \$42,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 40  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029  
Board Actions (Date): 6/20/05  
Resolution Number: 05-47

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

V. PROJECT STATUS:

Complete

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Project Planning and Design

Project Name/Code: Project Planning and Design (Proposition 40)

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Project Planning and Design

Location/Park Name: N/A

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority

Total Grant Amount: \$400,000.00

Funding Source(s): Proposition 12

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029

Board Actions (Date): 1/23/06

Resolution Number: 06-07

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: \$150,000.00

Funding Source(s): Proposition 40

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029

Board Actions (Date): 6/5/07

Resolution Number: 07-39

Total Grant Amount: \$550,000.00

IV. NARRATIVE:

Project planning and design activities leading directly to the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration or protection of land and water resources. Planning and design activities will include researching subject properties' natural resources and ownership, negotiations and preparation of purchase agreements, obtaining and reviewing appraisals, title reports, and environmental assessments, mapping and graphics to support acquisitions, and preparation of project plans and improvement plans to ensure adequate safe public access. All activities will lead to the protection of the state's natural and historical resources and provide healthy natural ecosystems that can support both human communities and the state's native fish and wildlife.

Potential projects that will be pursued with these funds are listed on Exhibit A, Project List and Budget. All land acquisition projects will be with willing sellers, and may include both fee simple title purchases and easements. Land acquisition project may include both fee simple title purchases and easements, and can be via direct purchase, donation, or dedication. All of the subject project planning and design activities would be consistent with Article 5, Land, Air, and Water Conservation, Section 5096.650(b) of Proposition 40, the California Clean Water, Clean Air Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 and in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

Potential projects that will be pursued with these funds are listed on Exhibit A, Project List and Budget. All land acquisition projects will be with willing sellers, may include fee simple title purchases and easements, and may be completed through donation, direct purchase, dedication or tax default. Specific staff activities will include researching subject properties' natural resources and ownership, negotiations, and preparation of purchase agreements, obtaining and reviewing appraisals, title reports, and environmental assessments, mapping and graphics to support acquisitions and preparation of project plans and improvement plans to ensure adequate and safe public access and protect sensitive natural and cultural resources.



## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Project Planning and Design

Project Name/Code: Stough Canyon Feasibility Study

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Project Planning and Design

Location/Park Name: Stough Canyon

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee:

Total Grant Amount: \$50,000

Funding Source(s): Proposition 40

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029

Board Actions (Date): 6/26/06

Resolution Number: 06-51

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A

Funding Source(s):

Item of Appropriation:

Board Actions (Date):

Resolution Number:

Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

V. PROJECT STATUS:

Complete

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Project Planning and Design

Project Name/Code: Sustainable Cities- Green Visions Plan for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Project Planning and Design  
Location/Park Name: Multiple

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee:  
Total Grant Amount: \$ 20,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 40  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029  
Board Actions (Date): 1/26/04  
Resolution Number: 04-05

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Project Planning and Design

Project Name/Code: Temescal Canyon Master Plan Phase II

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Project Planning and Design

Location/Park Name: Temescal

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority

Total Grant Amount: \$542,478

Funding Source(s): Proposition 40

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029

Board Actions (Date): 8/25/2003

Resolution Number: 03-131

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A

Funding Source(s):

Item of Appropriation:

Board Actions (Date):

Resolution Number:

Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

V. PROJECT STATUS:

Complete

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Acquisition

Project Name/Code: Ahmanson Ranch  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition  
Location/Park Name: Ahmanson Ranch

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$6,539,400.00  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 9/22/03  
Resolution Number: 03-147

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

On August 25, 2003, the Conservancy adopted a project plan for the Ahmanson Ranch project and authorized a grant of Proposition 50 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. At the time, the amount of the Proposition 50 grant needed for the acquisition of the Ahmanson Ranch property was unknown, as negotiations were ongoing. Staff has now determined that the funding needed from Proposition 50 will be \$6,539,400. This amount includes the amount of the acquisition, closing, costs, legal fees, environmental insurance costs, transaction review costs, staff time, attorney fees, appraisal costs, as well as initial site clean-up and minor improvement costs.

V. PROJECT STATUS:

Project Status as of June 30, 2007: Project is complete pending final accounting reconciliation and billing.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Acquisition

Project Name/Code: Alamos Canyon  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition  
Location/Park Name: Simi Hills

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$250,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 9/18/06  
Resolution Number: 06-71

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

The Simi Hills provide the only stepping stone for wildlife to replenish populations in the approximately 200 square mile Santa Monica Mountains ecosystem and link o the Santa Susana Mountains ecosystem. To continue this function effectively, the Simi Hills must ultimately contain enough protected habitat to maintain small populations of wildlife. The watercourses in the Simi Hills must also be protected from pollution and further encroachment by development. The proposed acquisition will contribute to both goals, and will protect the land and water resources of the Santa Monica Bay watershed. The subject property is located between the 118 Freeway and West Los Angeles Avenue, on the north side of the City of Simi Valley, and is kitty-

corner to Oak Park. The property owner, Donley Trust, is agreeable to the concept of sub-dividing the property into two parts to provide both a habitat linkage and adequate space for development. The MRCA would take title to the westernmost portion that includes Alamos Canyon Creek. An appraisal has been ordered based on this split of property. The MRCA has existing in-lieu mitigation funding to restore the subject 2.66 acres. The final full cost of acquisition will be determined after the appraisal is completed. MRCA would use in-lieu mitigation fees for the Calleguas Creek watershed for costs exceeding the requested grant amount of \$250,000.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Acquisition

Project Name/Code: Backbone Trail (ETZ Meloy Motorway)

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition

Location/Park Name: Backbone Trail

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority

Total Grant Amount: \$ 125,000

Funding Source(s): Proposition 50

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031

Board Actions (Date): 3/27/06

Resolution Number: 06-23

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount:

Funding Source(s):

Item of Appropriation:

Board Actions (Date):

Resolution Number:

Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

V. PROJECT STATUS:

Complete



## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Acquisition

Project Name/Code: Chatsworth Peak  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

#### I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition  
Location/Park Name: Santa Susana Mountains

#### II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District  
Total Grant Amount: \$50,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 2/26/07  
Resolution Number: 07-13

#### III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: \$180,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 84  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 7/9/07  
Resolution Number: 07-51  
Total Grant Amount: \$230,000

#### IV. NARRATIVE:

Chatsworth Peak is part of the critical intermountain range habitat linkage between the Santa Susanna Mountains and the Simi Hills. In regard to this habitat linkage, most of the attention has focused on the north-facing slope of the peak specifically on the connection between Santa Susana Pass and Box Canyon Road. A high-quality habitat linkage also exists across the south-facing slope via Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. The south-facing slope contains a high concentration of large sandstone outcrops and unique microhabitats. However, the only protected land between the State Historic Park and Box Canyon is an approximately 10-acre cluster of open space owned and managed by the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District (RSRPD). Efforts are underway to develop many of the other lots in this corridor. One such

threatened ownership is the Zorro's cabin parcels. That outward ownership is at the edge of a broad, gently-sloping shelf of land between Lilac Land and Studio Road. This shelf makes an ideal area for a trail between the State Historic Park and the North American Cutoff which is a frequently traveled dirt road between Bow Canyon Road and Sage Ranch Park.

The subject Wallace property is also situated at the south edge of this gently-sloped shelf, and is adjacent to the easternmost of the two Zorro's cabin parcels. During the time period that RSRPD was pursuing the Zorro's cabin parcels, the owner approached staff with hopes of making a deal where the property could be permanently protected. The Wallaces are selling four parcels totaling approximately 4.95 acres. The parcels have been appraised. Of the offered parcels, MRCA is in the process of acquiring APN 649-0-070-050 (2 acres), and RSRPD is proposing to acquire the remaining 2.95 acres: APNs 648-0-183-050, 648-0-200-020 and 649-0-070-060.

APN 649-070-060 contains many large outcrops that rise several hundred feet up to the described gently-sloped plateau. APNs 648-0-200-020 contains a large flat open area that is accessible via the same dirt road as Zorro's cabin parcel. The rocks in this area contain a natural basin that fills to a depth exceeding five feet with a length exceeding fifteen feet. The clear water supports many unique plant and invertebrate species including fairy shrimp. The property contains most of the values supplied by the Zorro's cabin property including unparalleled views of the San Fernando Valley and Chatsworth Reservoir, just as many oak trees and a historic film set cabin. APN 648-0-183-050 is not contiguous with the other parcels, but it has conservation value and appraised at a normal cost.

The Santa Susana Mountain Park Association is contributing \$17,500 toward the purchase of the property (this group also contributed \$10,000 toward the purchase of the parcel which is being acquired by the MRCA), and the RSRPD is contributing \$27,500. The requested \$180,000 grant from Proposition 84 funds will provide the balance required to complete the purchase.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Acquisition

Project Name/Code: Coastal Slope Trail  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition  
Location/Park Name: Coastal Slope Trail

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$1,500,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 7/30/07  
Resolution Number: 07-65

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

V. PROJECT STATUS:

Ongoing

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Acquisition

Project Name/Code: Corral Canyon

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition

Location/Park Name: Corral Canyon

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority

Total Grant Amount: 4,015,000

Funding Source(s): Proposition 50, Proposition 84

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031, 3810-301-6051

Board Actions (Date): 10/22/06

Resolution Number: 07-98

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount:

Funding Source(s):

Item of Appropriation:

Board Actions (Date):

Resolution Number:

Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

V. PROJECT STATUS:

On-going

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Acquisition

Project Name/Code: Lindero Creek Open Space  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

#### I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition  
Location/Park Name: Lindero Creek, Agoura Hills

#### II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: City of Agoura Hills  
Total Grant Amount: \$250,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 12/5/05  
Resolution Number: 05-91

#### III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

#### IV. NARRATIVE:

Lindero Creek Open Space consists of 18.2 acres of undeveloped land located at the north end of Reyes Adobe Road and east of Lindero Canyon Road in the City of Agoura Hills. Surrounding the project site are residential and commercial areas. The open space for the project is currently owned by a willing seller, the Las Virgenes Unified School District.

The purpose of the grant is to help purchase the land. Once the land is purchased, the site would be developed in a park, which would include a Fitness and Nature Trail and a parking area. The fitness and Nature Trail would run from the south end of the park to the north end and continue north into the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. The Trail would provide youth and the general public with active recreation in an outdoor

environment. Comprised of a carefully-ordered series of exercise stations along a loop trail, the Fitness and Nature Trail would allow for health and fitness benefit problems among youth and the general public by providing an alternative recreational resource for the physically inactive. Finally, the location of the trail is ideal; underdeveloped open space provides for a comfortable exercise environment away from road hazards, noise, and exhaust pollution.

The project site would be made easily accessible to the public. An access road beginning at the north end of Reyes Adobe Road will continue north into the open space and allow for access to the Fitness and Nature Trail. A parking area will be located just south of the Fitness and Nature Trail.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Acquisition

Project Name/Code: Marr Ranch/Tapo Canyon  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition  
Location/Park Name: Marr Ranch

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee:  
Total Grant Amount: \$975,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 2/27/06  
Resolution Number: 06-15

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

V. PROJECT STATUS:

Complete

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Acquisition

Project Name/Code: Mountclef Ridge Parcels  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition  
Location/Park Name: Mountclef Ridge

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: City of Thousand Oaks  
Total Grant Amount: \$500,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 4/24/06  
Resolution Number: 06-31

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

V. PROJECT STATUS:

Complete



## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Acquisition

Project Name/Code: Pacoima Wash Acquisition  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

#### I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition  
Location/Park Name: Pacoima Wash, City of San Fernando

#### II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$560,000.00  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 10/25/04  
Resolution Number: 04-85

#### III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: \$1,858.34  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 12/5/05  
Resolution Number: 05-84  
Total Grant Amount: \$561,858.00

#### IV. NARRATIVE:

Fee acquisition of 2.79 acres adjacent to Pacoima Wash in the City of San Fernando, and related closing costs and project transaction costs. APNs 2513-033-066, -007, and -008.

Pacoima Wash is a tributary of the Los Angeles River, flowing from the San Gabriel Mountains through the densely populated areas of the City of San Fernando and the Pacoima area of the City of Los Angeles, draining into the Tujunga Wash and the Los Angeles River. The subject 2.97 acre property, consisting of three parcels owned by San Fernando Airport Development, is unpaved vacant land located on the northwest edge of Pacoima Wash and directly south of Foothill Boulevard. The property is zoned as R1 (Single Family Residential), and is surrounded by industrial, retail, auto service and single family residential land uses. The requested

grant funds would enable fee acquisition of the property, which would be converted to natural parkland.

The subject property is currently on the market for \$550,000. The property went into escrow in 1999 with Extra Space Storage (ESS) but the transaction has not closed. ESS plans to develop a self-storage facility on the site, subject to a zone change and a Specific Plan amendment to the City of San Fernando's General Plan. ESS has not been granted the zone change because of local opposition to the planned development. There is now significant interest by the City of San Fernando to convert Pacoima Wash and adjacent lands into a community recreational amenity. San Fernando Airport Development is a willing seller and has entered into an agreement with ESS to terminate that contract. A private individual currently keeps several horses on the western portion of the property but does not have a valid lease or easement to do so. The current owner has negotiated with the individual to vacate the property.

The City of San Fernando currently has only 23 acres of parkland for its 25,000 residents. The Pacoima Wash acquisition is the first in a series of acquisitions planned along the Pacoima Wash and is the first step toward creating the proposed Pacoima Wash Greenway. The Pacoima Wash Greenway is a 3-mile long series of natural open space that will protect Pacoima Wash's land and water resources, extending from the Angeles National Forest and the Rim of the Valley Trail to the communities of the northeast San Fernando Valley. The Greenway project includes opportunities for infiltration of storm water, creation of wetlands, restoration of riparian habitat, enhancement of an urban habitat corridor, and creation of a pedestrian and bicycle trails. The City of San Fernando is now working with stakeholders to define specific projects for a community that has not been included in recent greening endeavors in the Los Angeles area.

Acquisition of the Pacoima Wash property will directly protect land and water resources and is consistent with the "San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan" as adopted by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the "Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Master Plan". The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority will seek additional funds to develop a natural park over the major part of the 2.79 acres. A portion of the property may be reserved for future naturalization of the Pacoima Wash flood control Channel.

V. **PROJECT STATUS:**

Project Completed: 6/30/05.

The project resulted in the acquisition of APNs 2513-033-0166, 2513-033-007, and 2513-033-008.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Acquisition

Project Name/Code: Soka University Acquisition  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

#### I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition  
Location/Park Name: Santa Monica Mountains (King Gillette Ranch)

#### II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$4,000,000.00  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 9/27/04  
Resolution Number: 04-79

#### III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

#### IV. NARRATIVE:

Located in the Center of the Santa Monica Mountains, the Soka University property is directly in the heart of both a key wildlife linkage and core habitat and is a significant scenic resource in the region. The property consists of twenty tax parcels and is bounded by Malibu Creek State Park and Las Virgenes Road to the west, Santa Monica Mountains National recreation Area (SMMNRA) open space and privately-owned land to the south, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA)-owned Las Virgenes View Park and privately-owned land to the north, and privately-owned land to the east.

Soka University is included on the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's Acquisition 2000 Workprogram Comprehensive Plan. Several key creeks are located on the property and are part of the other locally important species. A detailed description of the property's assets and the proposed uses is included in Exhibit A, Draft Project Plan.

The MRCA has obtained an appraisal for Soka University and submitted it to the State Department of General Service for review. The MRCA is working with several potential grantors to secure the total purchase price for the property, including the Wildlife Conservation Board, California Department of Parks and Recreation, and State Coastal Conservancy. The total amount being requested from the potential grantors is subject to approval of fair market value by Department of General Services and will be used solely for acquisition. The requested Proposition 50 funds are necessary to complete the purchase.

The proposed acquisition is consistent with the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50) Chapter 10, Section 79570(c), and in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act. The acquisition will implement the goals stated in Proposition 50, Chapter 1 Section 79501(h):

“Protect, restore, and acquire beaches and coastal uplands, wetlands, and watershed lands along the coast...to protect the quality of drinking water, to keep beaches and coastal waters safe from water pollution, and to provide the wildlife and plant habitat and riparian and wetlands areas needed to support functioning coastal and San Francisco Bay ecosystems for the benefit of the people of California.”

Acquisition of Soka University is consistent with and necessary for the regional objectives of numerous park agencies and other groups, including Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, California Department of Parks and Recreation, National Park Service, County of Los Angeles, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, and the Santa Monica Mountains Resource Conservation District.

V. **PROJECT STATUS:**  
The Project is Complete.

Acquisition of Soka property was completed on April 15, 2005. Grant funds were used to complete the acquisition with contributions from the Wildlife Conservation Board, the State Coastal Conservancy, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, Los Angeles County, the City of Agoura Hills, the City of Calabasas, the Mountains Restoration Trust and

the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. The National Park Service and the California Department of Parks and Recreation also acquired part of the former Soka campus in a concurrent escrow closing. A portion of this grant was used for payments pursuant to option agreement between Seller and MRCA.

On April 16, 3005 a press conference was held to announce the historic acquisition. The property, which lies at the heart of the Santa Monica Mountains, will be preserved in perpetuity for the enjoyment of the people of California and serve as crucial habitat for local wildlife.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Acquisition

Project Name/Code: Tax-Defaulted Properties - Northeast Los Angeles Hilltops  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition  
Location/Park Name: Northeast Los Angeles

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$99,583.00  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 1/28/08  
Resolution Number: 08-09

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

A unique, stepping stone system of open space areas connect downtown Los Angeles northward to the San Gabriel and Verdugo mountain ranges. With the exception of the Verdugo Mountains, only a small percentage of this open space is protected in any fashion. Given both the large populations surrounding these open space systems and their freeway proximity, their public value is inestimable.

The Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority (MRCA) is requesting funding to actively pursue the acquisition of tax-defaulted properties in the northeast of Los Angeles as a cost-effective way to preserve open space and habitat. The MRCA is interested in acquiring

properties with high habitat, watershed, viewshed, and recreational values. The proposed acquisition areas are in Glassell Park, Ascot Hills, Paradise Hill, Mount Olympus, and Mount Washington.

The mechanism for these acquisitions will be Chapter 8 Agreements with the County of Los Angeles, Treasurer and Tax Collector office. A tax-defaulted property is one where the owner has failed to fully pay property taxes for a period of at least five years. At the end of the five years, if the tax remains unredeemed, the Treasurer and Tax Collector has the power to sell the property, for the total amount of accumulated delinquent taxes, interest, and penalties. The property owner of record receives multiple notices and warnings prior to the sale.

The decision of which parcels to apply to the funding depends on several factors, including whether the taxes are redeemed on some parcels, the final cost per parcel, and the availability of matching funding sources. It is difficult, if not impossible, to predict ahead of time exactly which parcels will be available for sale and the exact purchase price for each. The attached maps indicate specific hilltop areas that are known to contain parcels of similar high habitat, watershed, viewshed, and recreational value. All the identified areas are within the upper Los Angeles River watershed. Each map is a subset of the available habitat in each hilltop, and contains at least one pending Chapter 8 Agreement. The subsets are based on parcel boundaries and are designed to minimize annual brushing costs. The requested funding would only be used for the acquisition of parcels within each subset.

At a minimum, all of the subject areas still support native mammal populations including coyotes, raccoons, striped skunks, cottontail rabbits and ground squirrels, raptors and numerous resident and migrants. Likewise, they all provide recreational opportunities in and of themselves or in concert with other existing public lands. All of the relevant City Council offices support the acquisition of these open space areas.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Acquisition

Project Name/Code: Topanga Canyon Surplus Property

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

#### I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition

Location/Park Name: Sylvia Park, Garapito Canyon, and Hillside Drive areas of Topanga Canyon

#### II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

Total Grant Amount: \$110,000.00

Funding Source(s): Proposition 50

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031

Board Actions (Date): 4/25/05

Resolution Number: 05-033

#### III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A

Funding Source(s):

Item of Appropriation:

Board Actions (Date):

Resolution Number:

Total Grant Amount:

#### IV. NARRATIVE:

At its November 24, 2003 meeting the Conservancy adopted resolution No. 03-201 waiving its first right of refusal pursuant to Section 33207 of the Public Resources Code on over 100 surplus parcels totaling approximately 57 acres in the subject area of Topanga canyon. In exchange for the Conservancy's waiver, Los Angeles County has subsequently offered to sell the remaining 18 surplus parcels in this area to the MRCA for \$100,000. The County is in the process of selling the approximately 57 acres that the Conservancy waived its right on. However, all of those parcels require, or are likely to soon require, extensive fuel modification.



APNs 441-009-900, -901, -902, 4441-012-900, 441-014-900, 4441-016-901 and 4441-015-901 are located east of Topanga Canyon Boulevard adjacent to Topanga State Park. Los Angeles County is negotiating deals with landowners that have inholdings within these future MRCA parcels to trade them for surplus parcels in the developed area immediately to the north. The subject parcels (49.5 acres) support high quality northern face chaparral vegetation with minimal development interface. Fuel modification requirements should be less than one quarter-acre.

APNs 4440-008-900, 4440-010-900 through 905, 4440-011-901, 902, 4440-012-900 and 4440-016-901 are located west of Topanga Canyon Boulevard just north of Hillside Drive and south of the Theatricum Botanicum. These parcels encompass two small but pristine tributaries of Topanga Creek. The parcels (11.6 acres) contain the highest quality chaparral vegetation and extensive oak woodland along the above mentioned tributaries. No brushing is required for these parcels. A trail from the Theatricum Botanicum currently courses through some of the parcels.

The ability to acquire 62 acres in one of the premier watersheds of the Santa Monica Mountains at a cost of approximately \$1,600 per acre is an excellent opportunity. The parcels are integral to the Topanga Canyon watershed and to the protection of water quality and quantity in Topanga Creek. The acquisition will clearly protect both land and water resources.

The subject 18 parcels were added to the Conservancy's Acquisition Workprogram at its August 30, 2004 meeting under the project name Topanga canyon-Garapito Canyon-Hillside Drive. The County's acquisition price for the subject 62 acres is \$100,000. The MRCA's requested grant amount of \$110,000 provides for closing costs, title, and nominal staff time.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Acquisition

Project Name/Code: Topanga Canyon (LACO) Acquisition

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

#### I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition

Location/Park Name: Sylvia Park

#### II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority

Total Grant Amount: \$100,000.00

Funding Source(s): Proposition 50

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031

Board Actions (Date): 9/18/06

Resolution Number: 06-73

#### III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A

Funding Source(s):

Item of Appropriation:

Board Actions (Date):

Resolution Number:

Total Grant Amount:

#### IV. NARRATIVE:

In 2003 the County of Los Angeles offered the sale of 140 parcels totaling 164 acres in the Sylvia Park area of Topanga Canyon, west of Topanga State Park. A small portion of the subject area is located in the Coastal Zone. Initially the County had an agreement to allow the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to acquire a group of 27 parcels totaling 58 acres that are directly adjacent to Topanga State Park. However, DPR was unable to complete the acquisition. The requested funding would be used to purchase the 58 acres.

The proposed acquisition will protect land and water resources and prevent degradation of the Topanga Canyon watershed. The subject properties are located adjacent to developed residential properties and

could be accessed via existing roads. Purchase of the properties is needed to prevent their sale or auction.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Acquisition

Project Name/Code: Upper Malibu Canyon Acquisition

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

#### I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition

Location/Park Name: Upper Malibu Canyon

#### II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority

Total Grant Amount: \$250,000.00

Funding Source(s): Proposition 50

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031

Board Actions (Date): 9/18/06

Resolution Number: 06-72

#### III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: \$40,000.00

Funding Source(s): Proposition 50

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031

Board Actions (Date): 10/23/06

Resolution Number: 06-80

Total Grant Amount: \$290,000.00

#### IV. NARRATIVE:

The subject acquisition is a 14.3-acre property in the upper Malibu Canyon adjacent to Las Virgenes View Park. The property is located south of the 101 Freeway, at the terminus of Calabasas Road west of Parkway Calabasas. It abuts the 696-acre Las Virgenes View Park on the south and west boundaries. The property contains two blue line streams, several artifact sites, and features large majestic oak trees. It also include 0.75 acres of restoration area that MRCA would restore with in-lieu mitigation fee funds.

The current development plans for this property include 34 residential units. This would generate a significant impact to the scenic corridor, and

would necessitate large amounts of grading and oak tree removals. The development would have a harmful effect on Las Virgenes View Park, and would permanently harm the property's blue line streams. The proposed acquisition will protect land and water resources and prevent degradation of the watershed.

The property owner, Lincoln Properties/Caplan, is agreeable to the acquisition. Funding for the acquisition beyond the requested \$250,000 would come from in-lieu mitigation fees, a contribution from the City of Calabasas, and Los Angeles County landfill fees. Escrow could close as early as November 2006 barring unforeseen complications.

V. **PROJECT STATUS:**  
Project Status as of 6/30/07:

Fee acquisition to Chicago Title \$290,000 April 2007. Project Closed.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Project Planning and Design

Project Name/Code: Watershed Comprehensive Plan

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Project Planning and Design

Location/Park Name:

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority

Total Grant Amount: \$168,000.00

Funding Source(s): Proposition 50

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031

Board Actions (Date): 7/28/03

Resolution Number: 03-118

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: \$217,980.00

Funding Source(s): Proposition 50

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031

Board Actions (Date): 10/27/03

Resolution Number: 03-183

Total Grant Amount: \$385,980.00

IV. NARRATIVE:

On October 17, 2001 during a special meeting, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy jointly adopted "Common Ground from the Mountains to the Sea: Watershed and Open Space Plan for the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers", commonly referred to as the Common Ground Plan. The plan provides a set of guiding principles, strategies, and opportunities for instituting watershed management throughout the jurisdictions of the two conservancies. Proposition 50 specifically states that watershed activities will be consistent with this plan.

The Watershed Division of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has been actively working to characterize the upper Los Angeles River Watershed for watershed protection and restoration through site analysis, mapping, demographic analysis, and field surveying consistent with the Common Ground Plan. In addition, the Watershed Division has been working with its many partners on an informal basis to identify where potential projects may be implemented in the watershed. What is clear to all involved is that what is most needed at this time is strong leadership, a clear program of watershed projects with measurable results, and a strategy for funding these projects.

Funding has been identified through Proposition 50, the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002. In Section 79570: Coastal Watershed and Wetland Protection, the Conservancy has been allocated \$20 million of funding for the upper Los Angeles River Watershed; in Section 79560: Integrated Regional Water Management has \$500 million allocated for competitive grants statewide.

With one in four Californians living in the Los Angeles region, and estimates for an additional 6 million residents by 2010, the need for wise use of water resources is urgent. While the region imports approximately 60% to 85% of total water usage depending upon annual precipitation, approximately 50% of the water or 125 billion gallons, that falls on the land runs on impervious surfaces into storm drains and out to the ocean. Add to that the amount of water also running through channelized rivers in the form of high quality tertiary treated effluent of approximately 166 billion gallons, and one can easily see where the solution to growth lies. The only way to meet the needs of future southern Californians is through conservation and reclamation of rainfall and wastewater.

Of course, the Conservancy and MRCA are hardly the first to recognize these facts. The Watershed Division of the MRCA is represented on steering committee of the City of Los Angeles Integrated Resource Plan which is using a stakeholder approach to determine expansion of wastewater treatment facilities and reclaimed water use. The Army Corps of Engineers has a number of reconnaissance and/or feasibility studies underway in the region for watershed studies and plans.

The Conservancy and MRCA are uniquely posed to be the leaders in carrying forward the agenda of watershed protection and integrated regional water management. We have the vision, drive, and technical expertise to effectively move this agenda forward. The solution to southern California's water problems will certainly require engineering expertise, but we bring the role of resource management and protection,

and recreation as integral to the solution. We can recharge groundwater, clean up the storm water, improve overall water quality and change the future of flood management, all while creating habitat and providing places for active and passive recreation. The Conservancy and MRCA have repeatedly demonstrated that natural beauty and open space can be brought directly into the most urban places of Los Angeles. Now staff proposes to integrate that expertise with the latest techniques in watershed management, in a comprehensive program to make a cumulative impact in the region. The logical place to bring such a program is the upper Los Angeles River Watershed, since all beneficial impacts will also be felt downstream.

The Integrated Regional Water Management account addresses such goals as water supply, reliability, water conservation, non-point source pollution reduction, groundwater recharge, and watershed management planning and implementation, among others. Key to this program is demonstrating multiple benefits for proposed projects, thus reinforcing the necessity of our involvement and partnership with other large public works agencies.

The MRCA Watershed Division, with its partner TreePeople, proposes to take the lead in developing an Integrated Regional Water Management program to effectively implement the stated goals of the initiative. In order to do this, additional technical support is needed for the Watershed Division. Staff is requesting \$217,980 for personnel and/or consulting time including, but not limited to: full characterization of current water quality and expected improvements, hydraulic modeling of river and storm water systems, and engineering. This will produce more in-depth technical analysis of the watershed and development of a specific work program of projects. Additional partnerships will be established through a series of Memorandums of Understanding, Cooperative Agreements and public outreach and education. With the added expertise, and leadership and partnerships in place, we will be able to advance the science of integrated regional water management and begin the process of transforming the very fabric and structure of Los Angeles into a model of sustainable human ecosystem.

V. **PROJECT STATUS:**  
Project is Complete.

No expenses were charged to the grant during the reporting period (4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2006). A final report/invoice will be submitted after reconciliation of fiscal year 05/06 is completed.



## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvement

Project Name/Code: Bell Creek Riverfront Natural Park

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

#### I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvement

Location/Park Name: Bell Creek

#### II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority

Total Grant Amount: \$50,000

Funding Source(s): Proposition 50

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031

Board Actions (Date): 9/26/05

Resolution Number: 05-075

#### III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A

Funding Source(s):

Item of Appropriation:

Board Actions (Date):

Resolution Number:

Total Grant Amount:

#### IV. NARRATIVE:

The grant funds the MRCA's improvement, enhancement, and restoration of park, wildlife or natural area resources within the subject lot soon to be owned by the MRCA. The project is therefore consistent with Chapter 10, Section 79570(c) of the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50). All of the project activities would be in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act. A Categorical Exemption was filed on September 19, 2005 with the State Clearinghouse.

The park design would maximize the habitat value of the site and provide a loop trail and observation area. Excellent public parking and access is available on and from adjacent neighborhood streets. The applicant of the

tract has graciously agreed to provide a water meter at the park entrance and to construct an attractive fence to close the park during night hours. This natural park will serve the nearby neighborhood groups visiting Shadow Ranch Park, the Kadima University, and the West Valley Jewish Community Center, all of which are within a five-minute walk from the site. All plants will be native and irrigated for at least five years. Other sources of funding include Proposition A Big River Parkway Excess funds and contributions from Kadima Academy. Additional funds would be used for enhanced planting, paths, interpretive displays, and soil improvements. The MRCA will maintain the park using Proposition A operations and maintenance funding.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvement

Project Name/Code: Center for Community Forestry

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvement

Location/Park Name: Multiple

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: Center for Community Forestry

Total Grant Amount: \$1,000,000

Funding Source(s): Proposition 50

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031

Board Actions (Date): 10/27/03

Resolution Number: 03-185

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A

Funding Source(s):

Item of Appropriation:

Board Actions (Date):

Resolution Number:

Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

V. PROJECT STATUS:

Ongoing

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvement

Project Name/Code: Franklin Improvements  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvements  
Location/Park Name: Franklin

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$200,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 40  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6029  
Board Actions (Date): 1/23/06  
Resolution Number: 06-05

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: \$250,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 11/26/07  
Resolution Number: 07-102  
Total Grant Amount: \$450,000

IV. NARRATIVE:

V. PROJECT STATUS:

On-going

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvement

Project Name/Code: King Gillette Ranch Restoration & Protection  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvement  
Location/Park Name: King Gillette Ranch

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$300,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 4/30/07  
Resolution Number: 07-29

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

The State of California has authorized expenditure of funds from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50) to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, in Chapter 10, Sections 79570(c) and 79571, for purpose of protecting coastal watersheds, including but not limited to, acquisition, protection, and restoration of land and water resources and associated planning, permitting, and administrative costs, and for the acquisition and development of facilities to promote public access to and participation in the conservation of land, water, and wildlife resources.

Public Resources Code Section 33204(c): “The Conservancy may, in accordance with the priorities of the plan...award grants to state agencies, cities, counties, resource conservation districts, and park and recreation districts for the purpose of acquiring sites identified as necessary for park, recreation, or conservation purposes and for development of essential related public facilities.”

Soka University has given 90 day notice to the MRCA of its intention to vacate the facilities at King Gillette Ranch on June 29, 2007. Some immediate capital expenditures are necessary to protect the land and water resources on the property. In order to protect the resources while accommodating public access, the MRCA will need to install appropriate signage; repair and install appropriate fencing and gates; repair, coat and restripe roads and parking areas, and install other necessary visitor control devices.

MRCA staff will develop and implement plans to protect and interpret existing oaks and other significant native plants within the developed landscape. Staff will also develop and implement plans to protect and interpret the existing pond and natural stream as they flow through the landscaped grounds. Additionally, the MRCA will need to retain a professional environmental planner to assess the property's proposed operational plan for consistency with the Coastal Act.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvement

Project Name/Code: Pacoima Wash Improvements  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvements  
Location/Park Name: Pacoima Wash

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$500,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 7/25/05  
Resolution Number: 05-055

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

V. PROJECT STATUS:

On-going

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvement

Project Name/Code: Ramirez Streambed Improvements

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

#### I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvement

Location/Park Name: Ramirez Canyon Park

#### II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority

Total Grant Amount: \$54,495.00

Funding Source(s): Proposition 50

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031

Board Actions (Date): 8/25/03

Resolution Number: 03-132

#### III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A

Funding Source(s):

Item of Appropriation:

Board Actions (Date):

Resolution Number:

Total Grant Amount:

#### IV. NARRATIVE:

In April 2000, the California Coastal Commission authorized a change of use permit for Ramirez Canyon Park. This permit received final approval in February 2001. The permit covered the change of use from residential park and additionally substantiated the various public programs run by the MRCA in Ramirez Canyon. During the April 2000 hearing, the Coastal Commission asked that the Conservancy investigate the physical improvements to the property made by previous owners. The Commission was particularly interested in those improvements made along the channel of Ramirez Creek.



MECA staff has researched past history of development on the property. The majority of the creek-side development occurred prior to the Coastal Act. In investigating the history of Ramirez Creek through the site, staff has come up with preliminary plans to improve the streambed. This includes significant exotic plant removal and selective native plant revegetation along the length of the creek corridor. Staff has additionally worked on preliminary plans to create additional wetland area on the property. These plans have received approval from the California Department of Fish and Game.

The proposed grant of Proposition 50 funds would fund consultant services to finalize plans and complete the engineering for the proposed wetland. Professional plans are necessary to bring to the Coastal Commission for approval prior to any construction. The grant could also fund some of the initial plant removal and native plant restoration.

The total grant amount would not exceed \$54,495 which includes the MRCA's required cost allocation amount.

V. **PROJECT STATUS:**  
Project Status as of 9/24/04:

The Ramirez Streambed Improvements project was intended to complete restoration work on Ramirez Stream required by the Coastal Commission permit for operation of Ramirez Canyon Park. On September 14, 2004 it was determined that the MRCA did not have sufficient personnel resources to complete the study within the term of agreement and the remaining funds were returned to the grantor. As of 9/23/04, the refund transaction was in progress and was expected to be complete within two weeks.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvement

Project Name/Code: South Pasadena-Arroyo Seco Woodland and Wildlife Park  
Restoration

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

#### I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvement  
Location/Park Name: South Pasadena-Arroyo Seco Woodland &  
Wildlife Park

#### II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$17,040.00  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 8/30/04  
Resolution Number: 04-66

#### III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: \$1,230.06  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 12/5/05  
Resolution Number: 05-085  
Total Grant Amount: \$18,270.00

#### IV. NARRATIVE:

Restoration of native plants and removal of invasive exotic plants at the South Pasadena-Arroyo Seco Woodland & Wildlife Park in South Pasadena. All newly planted areas will be mulched and mature native trees will be pruned to promote healthier growth and deter establishment of exotic plants. The work performed will augment restoration already completed by the MRCA, and will help to ensure the survival of the restored areas. A detailed budget is attached.

The project is within the upper Los Angeles River watershed and implements the goals identified in Chapter 1, Section 79501(e) and (f) of Proposition 50. It is consistent with the “San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan” as adopted by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

- V. **PROJECT STATUS:**  
Project is Complete

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvement

Project Name/Code: Temescal and Ramirez Trees  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

#### I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvement  
Location/Park Name: Temescal Gateway Park & Ramirez Canyon Park

#### II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$75,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 6/5/07  
Resolution Number: 07-47

#### III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

#### IV. NARRATIVE:

The State of California has authorized expenditure of funds from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50) to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, in Chapter 10, Sections 79575(c) and 75971, for purpose of protecting coastal watersheds, including but not limited to, acquisition, protection, and restoration of land and water resources and associated planning, permitting, and administrative costs, and for the acquisition and development of facilities to promote public access to and participation in the conservation of land, water, and wildlife resources.  
Public Resources Code Section 33204(c): "The Conservancy may, in accordance with the priorities of the plan...award grants to state agencies,

cities, counties, resource conservation districts, and park recreation districts for the purpose of acquiring sites identified as necessary for park, recreation, or conservation purposes and for development of essential related public facilities.”

Temescal Gateway Park and Ramirez Canyon Park are two highly developed parks owned by the Conservancy. Under previous ownership in both parks, many non-native trees were planted. These trees impede the growth and continued health of the native vegetation in the canyons. Their removal will encourage the development of more vigorous native ecosystems.

At Ramirez Canyon Park, the slopes were planted heavily with pine trees. Underneath the pine canopy, small oaks and walnuts are trying to establish themselves. MRCA staff has removed some pines and other non-native trees on the property in the past, but many more still need to come out.

In Temescal Canyon, eucalyptus trees line the stream corridor that runs through the center of the park. They are also planted on the slopes throughout the park. The eucalyptus are prone to dropping limbs and are highly flammable. In the past, falling limbs have severely damaged nearby oaks. To protect the native vegetation in the park and to foster growth of native sycamores and other riparian vegetation, the eucalyptus trees need to be removed.

A combination of outside contractors and MRCA staff will be used to eliminate the non-native trees in both parks. MRCA staff will make every effort to protect existing oaks, sycamores and other significant native plants within the removal areas.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvement

Project Name/Code: Tujunga Wash Stream Restoration

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

#### I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvement

Location/Park Name: Tujunga Wash

#### II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority

Total Grant Amount: \$100,000

Funding Source(s): Proposition 50

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031

Board Actions (Date): 11/29/06

Resolution Number: 06-92

#### III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: \$200,000

Funding Source(s): Proposition 84

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6051

Board Actions (Date): 9/24/07

Resolution Number: 07-88

Total Grant Amount: \$300,000

Amendment Amount: \$100,000

Funding Source(s): Proposition 84

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6051

Board Actions (Date): 5/12/08

Resolution Number: 08-41

Total Grant Amount: \$400,000

#### IV. NARRATIVE:

Tujunga Wash is a nine-mile rectangular channel constructed between 1950 and 1952 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It conveys runoff from Hansen Dam to the Wash's confluence with the Los Angeles River. The channel flows through highly urbanized residential and commercial

areas in the City of Los Angeles. Outside of flood control, the concrete-lined channel offers very little benefit to the community and environment. There is approximately 65 feet of Los Angeles County Flood Control District owned right of way along both sides of the channel that currently lacks landscaping and recreational amenities.

The subject project extends from Oxnard to Vanowen Street, a distance of approximately 6,100 feet, on both sides of Tujunga Wash. The area consists of a highly urbanized residential and commercial area in the Valley Glen community of the City of Los Angeles. After several community input meetings and studies of restoration alternatives, the improvements chosen included an alternative naturalized stream course on the west bank of the channel, habitat restoration on both sides of the channel, pathways for people to walk and bike, and interpretive exhibits, all within existing flood control right of way.

The constructed stream mimics a small tributary in this region, having a natural, unlined streambed and ephemeral flows. By intercepting flow from the main channel and allowing runoff to flow through a naturalized stream, the project reduces flood potential and improves water quality by reducing pollutants from the urban flows. The project will also create riparian habitat for a number of species adapted to the urban environment. Decorative fencing and gates will replace the existing chainlink and barbed wire fencing and gates. The project area will be open from sunrise to sunset.

Over \$5 million in grant funds has already been secured through the County of Los Angeles, The California Department of Water Resources, and the Resources Agency. The MRCA is implementing the project in close cooperation with the Los Angeles County Public Works' Watershed Management Division.

The MRCA already has a contractor in place and construction is anticipated to be substantially complete by April 30, 2007. The requested funds would be put to immediate use to augment the construction budget for the project.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvements

Project Name/Code: West Mulholland Watershed Demonstration Project  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvement  
Location/Park Name: Santa Monica Mountains

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$1,600,000.00  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 12, Proposition 40, Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-0005, 3810-301-6029, 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 7/25/05  
Resolution Number: 05-054

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

The proposed project will improve public facilities at the West Mulholland Watershed Demonstration Project. Park features will include native tree, shrub, and groundcover landscaping, state-of-the-art permeable and semi-permeable surfaces, the creation of a stream and bioswale within the existing fill soil and reintroduction of riparian plants, solar irrigation system, hiking trails, a 70-car parking lot, picnic benches and shelters, interpretive kiosks, composting restroom facilities, a state-of-the-art, low impact ranger residence (approx. 1400 sq. ft.) and interpretive facility (1000 sq. ft.), and an outdoor classroom.



The West Mulholland Watershed Demonstration Project is located in the City of Los Angeles, along the dirt portion of Mulholland Drive in the Santa Monica Mountains approximately 0.75 miles east of Topanga Canyon Boulevard. The Property abuts Mulholland Drive on the northwest, with hillside residential neighborhoods extending in that direction from this point. Open space or parkland surrounds the park in all other directions, connecting to Summit Valley/Ed Edelman Park, Topanga State Park, and Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park. The current land use is vacant.

The project site was graded for development in the 1960's via importation of fill soil. The park development site is nestled at the bottom of natural bowl, and from the upper hills are scenic vistas to the north. The approximately 1.75 acre fill pad supports mostly weedy annual species, and is not visible from Mulholland Drive because of an on-site detention basin and berm. The site is located within the Mulholland Scenic Parkway viewshed.

The proposed project will utilize an irrigation system run by a solar pump and timer. The proposed ranger residence, outdoor classroom, composting restrooms, parking, interpretive center, and interpretive kiosks all feature state-of-the-art, low-impact sustainable designs to blend in with the natural character of the site, and will be augmented with native trees and landscaping.

This application includes a budget divided into the two primary tasks, Planning and Construction. However, the MRCA requests that the budgets between tasks be flexible, so long as the total expenses do not exceed the grant amount

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Project Planning and Design

Project Name/Code: Ballona Creek Overland Project

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Project Planning and Design

Location/Park Name: Culver City

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: Culver City

Total Grant Amount: \$60,000

Funding Source(s): Proposition 50

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031

Board Actions (Date): 1/22/07

Resolution Number: 07-03

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A

Funding Source(s):

Item of Appropriation:

Board Actions (Date):

Resolution Number:

Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

Project planning and design activities leading directly to the development of construction documents necessary for the construction of a project to transform a segment of the Ballona Creek Bike Path by restoring natural habitat, creating educational and recreational opportunities, enhancing the beauty of the creek, and providing a way station for travelers along this segment of the bike path as well as amenities for library patrons, school students and nearby residents. Planning and design activities will include a safety and security study and preparation of all documents required for construction including environmental documents for the proposed construction project as well as preparation of project plans, specifications and a cost estimate.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Project Planning and Design

Project Name/Code: Charmlee Nature Center Preliminary Design

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Project Planning and Design

Location/Park Name: Charmlee Wilderness Park

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: City of Malibu

Total Grant Amount: \$100,000

Funding Source(s): Proposition 50

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031

Board Actions (Date): 4/30/07

Resolution Number: 07-28

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A

Funding Source(s):

Item of Appropriation:

Board Actions (Date):

Resolution Number:

Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

The City intends to use the SMMC grant product to prepare a more competitive application for the Proposition 84 nature center program. The funds will be used for a more detailed and revised concept plan, initial environmental documents, topographical survey, fire department and American's with Disabilities compliance features, Phase I archeology and a more detailed working budget for the nature center. The design may include a small amphitheater, additional restrooms, permanent caretakers' quarters, classrooms, meeting room(s), city staff and docent offices and live preserved animal displays. City staff will prepare a scope of work, circulate a request for proposals from qualified professionals, contract for and supervise the services needed in order to complete the grant tasks.

This also provides the City with an opportunity to explore proposals from Nature of Wildworks, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, to house their menagerie of Santa Monica Mountains live birds and animals that need a home. These animals are used in environmental education programs at Charmlee and other highly acclaimed programs for kids and adults. The Proposition 84 grant program provides an opportunity that is uniquely suited to Charmlee Wilderness Park. The specific goals of the State program are to fund centers that showcase wildlife conservation and natural history showing the relationship of Native American cultures to the environment. There is extensive documentation that the lands at Charmlee were part of Malibu's Native American past. Additionally, the proposed nature center museum can provide space for the many artifacts that have been found at various sites in Malibu and currently being temporarily held on loan in other cities. The nature center may make it possible to establish a permanent library of Native American resources including books, films, and other media and making these resources available to the public and to foster relationships with other Native American Cultural centers and programs to facilitate resource sharing and cooperation.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Project Planning and Design

Project Name/Code: Escondido and Ramirez Canyons

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Project Planning and Design

Location/Park Name: Santa Monica Bay

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority

Total Grant Amount: \$200,000

Funding Source(s): Proposition 50

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031

Board Actions (Date): 2/27/06

Resolution Number: 06-18

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: \$385,000

Funding Source(s): Proposition 50

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031

Board Actions (Date): 8/28/06

Resolution Number: 06-66

Total Grant Amount: \$585,000

IV. NARRATIVE:

Project Planning and Design necessary for a Coastal Development project for the protection of the land and water resources of the Santa Monica Bay coastal watershed, including the expansion of recreational use and trail development in Escondido and Ramirez Canyons and the restoration of Ramirez Creek. Scope amended to limit the legal services component of the scope to fees and associated costs required to ensure compliance with the Coastal Act and coastal land use planning.

Background: The State of California has authorized expenditure of funds from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50) to the Santa Monica Mountains

Conservancy, in Chapter 10, Sections 79570(c) and 79571, for purpose of protecting coastal watersheds, including but not limited to, acquisition, protection, and restoration of land and water resources and associated planning, permitting, and administrative costs, and for the acquisition and development of facilities to promote public access to and participation in the conservation of land, water, and wildlife resources.

Public Resources Code Section 33204(c): “The Conservancy may, in accordance with the priorities of the plan...award grants to state agencies, cities, counties, resource conservation districts, and park and recreation districts for the purpose of acquiring sites identified as necessary for park, recreation, or conservation purposes and for development of essential related public facilities.”

**Project Description:** The MRCA is proposing a Coastal Development project to protect the land and water resources of the Santa Monica Bay coastal watershed. The requested funding would allow the project to commence. The project includes restoration of Ramirez Creek, expanding the scope of recreational use of Ramirez Canyon Park and Escondido Canyon, addressing problems in the current Coastal Development permit, and enhancing existing programs conducted at Ramirez Canyon Park. The Coastal permit process can be quite complex. The MRCA has retained a professional environmental planner to assist in the process. Other outside consultants will be utilized as well. A variety of engineering and technical services will be necessary to make a permit complete. This work could include but not be limited to traffic, hydrology, geology, grading, biology, water quality, noise, and archaeological studies. At the beginning of the permit process, it is difficult to judge exactly which outside consultants will be necessary.

Staff will be revising public outreach programs and increasing public access at Ramirez Canyon Park. Additionally, to expand recreational use, staff will be evaluating the possible trail connections between Ramirez Canyon Park and Escondido Canyon. Staff activities may include researching subject properties' natural resources and ownership, negotiations, and preparation of purchase agreements, obtaining and reviewing appraisals, title reports, and environmental assessments, mapping and graphics to support acquisitions, and preparation of project plans as necessary. Outside trail planning consultants may be used to determine trail alignment and grading.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Project Planning and Development

Project Name/Code: Hansen Dam  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Project Planning and Design  
Location/Park Name: Hansen Dam Recreational Area

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$50,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 7/31/06  
Resolution Number: 06-60

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

The Hansen Dam Recreational Area Parking Lot and Wetlands Restoration Project proposes the installation of bioswales, sand filtration systems and treatment wetlands to capture, treat and reuse wet and dry weather flows from three parking lots at the Hansen Sam Recreation Area. Currently, untreated stormwater and dry weather urban run-off from the parking lots drain to sensitive riparian habitat at Hansen lake that is occupied by numerous special status species, including multiple breeding pairs of the least Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*). The project would redesign and resurface portions of one parking lot and redirect flow from this and two other parking lots into a complex of bioswales, sand filtration systems, and a treatment wetland.

Proposition O, approved by the City of Los Angeles voters on November 2, 2004, authorized \$500 million of bonds for projects to protect public health by cleaning up pollution, including bacteria and trash, in the City's watercourses and waterbodies. In addition, the measure will fund improvements to protect ground water quality, provide flood control, and increase water conservation, habitat protection, and open space. In order to secure Proposition O funding for implementation of the project, additional studies and project development is required.



## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Project Planning and Design

Project Name/Code: Project Planning and Design (Prop 50)

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

#### I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Project Planning and Design  
Location/Park Name: Los Angeles River Watershed, Coastal  
Watershed of Santa Monica Bay and Ventura County

#### II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$200,000.00  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 8/30/04  
Resolution Number: 04-64

#### III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: \$200,000.00  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 1/24/05  
Resolution Number: 05-07  
Total Grant Amount: \$400,000.00

Amendment Amount: \$420,000.00  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 2/27/06  
Resolution Number: 06-19  
Total Grant Amount: \$820,000.00

Amendment Amount: \$100,000.00  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 4/24/06

Resolution Number: 06-30  
Total Grant Amount: \$920,000.00

Amendment Amount: \$150,000.00  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 6/5/07  
Resolution Number: 07-40  
Total Grant Amount: \$1,070,000.00

#### IV. NARRATIVE:

Project planning and design activities leading directly to the protection of land and water resources in the upper Los Angeles River Watershed and within the coastal watersheds of Santa Monica Bay and Ventura County pursuant to Division 23 (commencing with Section 33000) of the Public Resources Code. The grant would fund activities directly related to the acquisition, protection and restoration of land and water resources and associated planning, permitting, and administrative costs for a subset of projects listed on the MRCA Workprogram, located in the above-referenced three geographic areas.

The geographically specific project list includes both land acquisition and improvement projects that protect land and water resources in order to reduce pollution, capture additional storm water runoff, protect and manage groundwater, reduce pollution of the Los Angeles River and its tributaries, and to provide habitat for fish and wildlife. Land acquisition includes both obtaining fee simple title and conservation easements. Such land acquisition can be via direct purchase, donation, or dedication. The MRCA will provide direct services related to the expeditious acquisition or improvement of remaining open space parcels and/or sites with open areas or removable improvements for reclamation within the potential eligible projects on the attached project list. The MRCA's efforts will include concerted coordination with other government agencies.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Project Planning and Design

Project Name/Code: Soka Project Planning  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Project Planning and Design  
Location/Park Name: Soka

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$200,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 8/30/04  
Resolution Number: 04-65

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: \$75,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 1/24/05  
Resolution Number: 05-06  
Total Grant Amount: \$275,000

IV. NARRATIVE:

V. PROJECT STATUS:

Complete

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Project Planning and Design

Project Name/Code: Sooky Goldman Nature Center  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Project Planning and Design  
Location/Park Name: Franklin Canyon Park

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Children's Nature Institute  
Total Grant Amount: \$50,000.00  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 9/18/06  
Resolution Number: 06-74

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

The Sooky Goldman Nature Center in Franklin Canyon Park was dedicated in 1990 and has since served hundreds of thousands of at-risk school groups and community organizations each year. The 3,900 square foot facility currently houses exhibits that are over ten years old.

Development of an interpretive plan for the Sooky Goldman Nature Center in Franklin Canyon which will include interpretive themes and exhibit concepts with initial drawings. Preliminary design and interpretive plan for improvements to the Sooky Goldman Nature Center in Franklin Canyon. The plan will include overall interpretive themes and exhibit concepts. The work will also include exploring the feasibility of expanding or remodeling the existing facilities, and to the extent the same is feasible,

the interpretive plan may also include the preliminary design of any facility modifications. The finished plan should be professionally printed and 5 copies will be made available to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

The interpretive plan funded by this grant will be developed with the participation by MRCA and National Park Service Staff.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Project Planning and Development

Project Name/Code: The Great Wall

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

#### I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Project Planning and Design

Location/Park Name: Upper Los Angeles River Watershed

#### II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: Social and Public Art Resource Center

Total Grant Amount: \$375,000

Funding Source(s): Proposition 50

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031

Board Actions (Date): 5/22/06

Resolution Number: 06-40

#### III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A

Funding Source(s):

Item of Appropriation:

Board Actions (Date):

Resolution Number:

Total Grant Amount:

#### IV. NARRATIVE:

SPARC (Social and Public Art Resource Center) and the Center for Law in the Public Interest (CLIP) submit this proposal for \$375,000 for acquisition and development of an outdoor facility to promote public access to, and participation in the conservation of land, water and wildlife resources as part of the revitalization of the Los Angeles River.

The walls of the River will provide the walls of this extended outdoor facility, which will provide wildlife viewing, outdoor experiences and conservation and education programs to the public and to students. The facility will start at the Great Wall of Los Angeles mural in the Tujunga Wash in the San Fernando Valley, and follow the River to the Zanja Madre in the heart of downtown Los Angeles, passing El Rio de Los

Angeles State Park at Taylor Yard, Los Angeles State Historic Park at the Cornfield, and El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Monument as part of the Heritage Parkscape. The facility will be operated by the SPARC, a non-profit organization, in cooperation with the University of California, Los Angeles and other non-profit organization. The facility will serve children from urban areas that lack access to natural areas and outdoor education programs.

The extended outdoor facility will include the following components: (1) A new solar-lit bridge spanning the Los Angeles River in the existing park in front of the Great Wall, with conservation education programs about water, land, and wildlife along the River appearing on interpretive stations on the bridge. (2) Conservation education programs about water, land, and wildlife along the River appearing on interpretive stations in pathways throughout the park. (3) Restored art work about water, land, and wildlife in the Great Wall mural covering the history of the River from prehistoric times to the 1950's. (4) Art work about water, land, and wildlife in the new mural extending the Great Wall to cover the next four decades (1960's, 70's, 80's, & 90's). (5) A pilot project of conservation education programs about water, land, and wildlife on 15 interpretive stations linking the Great Wall, the River, and the Zanja Madre as part of the Heritage Parkscape. The outdoor facility will consist of the bridge, the art work in the Great Wall about water, land, and wildlife, and the conservation education programs about water, land, and wildlife on the interpretive stations.

The Great Wall is painted on a half-mile section of the concrete retaining wall of the Tujunga Wash in the River. Over the past thirty years, the mural has suffered extensive damage due to sun exposure and lack of restoration funds. A newly designed bridge (the current deteriorated wooden bridge is closed) will become a central public entrance and center for conservation education programs about water, land, and wildlife along the River. The bridge will include solar lighting panels and will provide an excellent viewing platform for the River, wildlife, and mural. The new pre-fabricated steel bridge by Continental Bridge Co. will be adapted for the site by WHY Architects, who will also design the interpretive stations for conservation education programs along the park pathways. The restoration plan for the mural includes reconsolidation and reattachment of loose paint, removal of surface oxidization for color revival, repainting disappearing section of the mural, and the application of ultraviolet protective coatings that will extend the life of the mural for thirty-five years or more. The funds from this project will be allocated only for the restoration of those portions of the Great Wall concerning water, land, and wildlife.

The proposed conservation education programs about water, land, and wildlife on 15 interpretive stations along the River from the Great Wall to downtown will consist of a graphic image and text created in porcelain enamel on metal, and mounted on concrete podiums. In this way the extended facility will connect water, land, wildlife, and people along the River through shared space and time and eventually unite over 100 rich environmental, recreational, historical, and cultural resources in the heart of Los Angeles. The Parkscape will link the Los Angeles River, the Great Wall, the Los Angeles State Historic Park at the Cornfield, El Rio de Los Angeles State Park at Taylor Yard, the Zanja Madre or “mother trench” that provided water for early L.A., El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, Elysian Park, Confluence Park, the Arroyo Seco, Debs Park, Buddy Mason Park, the new Ascot Hills Park, and other water, land, and wildlife resources.



## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Project Planning and Design

Project Name/Code: Vista Hermosa Planning  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Project Planning and Design  
Location/Park Name: Vista Hermosa

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$187,463  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 10/27/03  
Resolution Number: 03-176

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: \$600,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 1/26/04  
Resolution Number: 04-63  
Total Grant Amount: \$787,463

IV. NARRATIVE:

V. PROJECT STATUS:

Complete

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Project Planning and Design

Project Name/Code: Vista Hermosa

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Project Planning and Design

Location/Park Name: Vista Hermosa

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority

Total Grant Amount: \$3,269,700

Funding Source(s): Proposition 50

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031

Board Actions (Date): 8/30/04

Resolution Number: 04-63

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: \$5,950,000

Funding Source(s): Proposition 50

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031

Board Actions (Date): 8/28/06

Resolution Number: 06-64

Total Grant Amount: \$9,219,700

IV. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: \$2,300,000

Funding Source(s): Proposition 50

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031

Board Actions (Date): 1/29/07

Resolution Number: 07-02

Total Grant Amount: \$11,519,700

V. NARRATIVE:

VI. PROJECT STATUS:

Ongoing

PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN  
CERTIFICATION

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Inter-Agency Agreement

Project Name/Code: Watershed Protection  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Inter-Agency Agreement  
Location/Park Name: Multiple

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission  
Total Grant Amount: \$150,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 11/29/06  
Resolution Number: 06-89

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

V. PROJECT STATUS:

Ongoing

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Acquisition

Project Name/Code: Chatsworth Peak  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

#### I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition  
Location/Park Name: Santa Susana Mountains

#### II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District  
Total Grant Amount: \$50,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 2/26/07  
Resolution Number: 07-13

#### III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: \$180,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 84  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 7/9/07  
Resolution Number: 07-51  
Total Grant Amount: \$230,000

#### IV. NARRATIVE:

Chatsworth Peak is part of the critical intermountain range habitat linkage between the Santa Susanna Mountains and the Simi Hills. In regard to this habitat linkage, most of the attention has focused on the north-facing slope of the peak specifically on the connection between Santa Susana Pass and Box Canyon Road. A high-quality habitat linkage also exists across the south-facing slope via Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. The south-facing slope contains a high concentration of large sandstone outcrops and unique microhabitats. However, the only protected land between the State Historic Park and Box Canyon is an approximately 10-acre cluster of open space owned and managed by the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District (RSRPD). Efforts are underway to develop many of the other lots in this corridor. One such

threatened ownership is the Zorro's cabin parcels. That outward ownership is at the edge of a broad, gently-sloping shelf of land between Lilac Land and Studio Road. This shelf makes an ideal area for a trail between the State Historic Park and the North American Cutoff which is a frequently traveled dirt road between Bow Canyon Road and Sage Ranch Park.

The subject Wallace property is also situated at the south edge of this gently-sloped shelf, and is adjacent to the easternmost of the two Zorro's cabin parcels. During the time period that RSRPD was pursuing the Zorro's cabin parcels, the owner approached staff with hopes of making a deal where the property could be permanently protected. The Wallaces are selling four parcels totaling approximately 4.95 acres. The parcels have been appraised. Of the offered parcels, MRCA is in the process of acquiring APN 649-0-070-050 (2 acres), and RSRPD is proposing to acquire the remaining 2.95 acres: APNs 648-0-183-050, 648-0-200-020 and 649-0-070-060.

APN 649-070-060 contains many large outcrops that rise several hundred feet up to the described gently-sloped plateau. APNs 648-0-200-020 contains a large flat open area that is accessible via the same dirt road as Zorro's cabin parcel. The rocks in this area contain a natural basin that fills to a depth exceeding five feet with a length exceeding fifteen feet. The clear water supports many unique plant and invertebrate species including fairy shrimp. The property contains most of the values supplied by the Zorro's cabin property including unparalleled views of the San Fernando Valley and Chatsworth Reservoir, just as many oak trees and a historic film set cabin. APN 648-0-183-050 is not contiguous with the other parcels, but it has conservation value and appraised at a normal cost.

The Santa Susana Mountain Park Association is contributing \$17,500 toward the purchase of the property (this group also contributed \$10,000 toward the purchase of the parcel which is being acquired by the MRCA), and the RSRPD is contributing \$27,500. The requested \$180,000 grant from Proposition 84 funds will provide the balance required to complete the purchase.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Acquisition

Project Name/Code: Coastal Slope Trail Acquisition  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition  
Location/Park Name: Ramirez Canyon Park

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$1,500,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 84  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6051  
Board Actions (Date): 8/27/07  
Resolution Number: 07-76

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority's (MRCA) requested grant to implement the Coastal Slope Trail in Malibu would fund the acquisition of fee simple APNs 4467-002-042, 044 and 060, which contain approximately 24 acres collectively. The property has been appraised. The property is within the watershed of Ramirez Creek which flows directly into the Santa Monica Bay. The acquisition of said parcels would provide protection of watershed and land resources. The acquisitions will also facilitate an important link in the Coastal Slope Trail and promote access to coastal resources of the state.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Acquisition

Project Name/Code: Corral Canyon

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition

Location/Park Name: Corral Canyon

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority

Total Grant Amount: 4,015,000

Funding Source(s): Proposition 50, Proposition 84

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031, 3810-301-6051

Board Actions (Date): 10/22/06

Resolution Number: 07-98

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount:

Funding Source(s):

Item of Appropriation:

Board Actions (Date):

Resolution Number:

Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

V. PROJECT STATUS:

On-going

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Acquisition

Project Name/Code: Encinal Canyon

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition  
Location/Park Name: Encinal Canyon

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$235,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 84  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6051  
Board Actions (Date): 10/22/07  
Resolution Number: 07-97

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

Fee acquisition of approximately 10 acres, APN 694-0-210-500, in fee title and an appurtenant easement over the Etz Meloy Motorway (the alignment of the Backbone Trail) in Encinal Canyon, County of Ventura.

The subject property contains important coastal habitat and acquisition will facilitate development of an important link in the Backbone Trail. The property provides and promotes access to and enjoyment of coastal resources of the state, and acquisition would protect land and water resources. Acquisition of this parcel is a priority of Nation Park Service. National Park Service and Mountains Conservancy Foundation are also contributing funds to the purchase.



PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN  
CERTIFICATION

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Acquisition

Project Name/Code: Garipito Canyon  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition  
Location/Park Name: Topanga Canyon

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$175,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 84  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6051  
Board Actions (Date): 9/24/07  
Resolution Number: 07-85

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority's (MRCA) requested \$175,000 land acquisition grant would fund the direct acquisition and protection of land, water and other natural resources and associated acquisition and administrative costs for an eligible project located in the coastal watershed of the Santa Monica Bay.

The project is to acquire a 38-acre parcel (APN 4434-009-015) in the Garapito Canyon tributary of Topanga Canyon. The acquisition would directly preserve and protect land, water and other natural resources in a watershed of Santa Monica Bay. Los Angeles County will fund the

remainder of the acquisition cost. The project abuts property owned by the National Park Service and Topanga State Park. It includes substantial riparian habitat along a blue line stream and a trail that connects to dirt Mulholland Drive. Public trail access is through Paradise Lane or dirt Mulholland. It is an NPS fee acquisition property on the Land Protection Plan.

The MRCA requests that the term of agreement begin September 24, 2007 and end no earlier than December 30, 2007.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvement

Project Name/Code: Fuel Hazard Reduction  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

#### I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvement  
Location/Park Name: N/A

#### II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$500,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 84

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6051  
Board Actions (Date): 7/9/07  
Resolution Number: 07-56

#### III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

#### IV. NARRATIVE:

The grant will provide the necessary funding to purchase a fire engine and water tender. Both are critical pieces of capital equipment required for the protection and restoration of natural resources owned or managed by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. Summer droughts have caused vegetation to become extremely dry and recent weather conditions have aggravated a potentially hazardous fire season. Watershed, wildlife and recreational areas can be permanently lost due to wildfire.

The funds would provide for watershed/resource protection, by minimizing the risk of fires that could permanently damage native plants, and cause area to be "type converted" to invasive species. In addition, the burned areas after a wildfire are bear of its protective vegetation cover and is susceptible to excessive runoff and erosion. The fire will often destroy the root system of shrubs and grasses that aid in stabilizing slope. Furthermore, the threat of landslides and debris flows are greatly increased, and water quality can be greatly impacted due to excessive runoff and silt accumulation.

The water tender will be used: to protect natural resources and park property during fires; water re-vegetated areas during restoration to control erosion. The water tender will also be used during prescribed burns to reduce fuel hazards. The fire engine is required to assist in the protection of park property and natural resources during fires and during prescribed burns to reduce fuel hazards.

**Role of Prescribed Burning:** When conducted properly, prescribed burning can be an effective management tool for reducing hazardous fuel loads and the threat of wildfire. Prescribed/controlled burns reduce fuels that feed dangerous fires and minimized the possibility that the next fire season would not bring destructive, property damaging fire. Few alternative treatments can compete with fire from the standpoint of effectiveness and cost. Chemicals are extremely costly and have various associated environmental risks. Prescribed burning is much more affordable with much less risk to the habitat and destruction of parkland and soil quality.

**Equipment Grant Request:** MRCA proposes a grant for capital equipment specifically designed and suited for the prescribed burn/resource protection function. Funds are not to exceed \$500,000 for purchase of a Type III engine and Type II water tender, each with a Compressed Air Foam system.

Compressed Air Foam (CAF) systems have a unique value in providing watershed/resource protection. Biodegradable Class A foam has many applications, including minimizing mechanical/bulldozer lines during suppression and prescription/controlled burns. It has been widely recognized that bulldozer lines during prescribed burns, and other fire events , can cause significant resource damage, especially to protected species and historical/cultural/archaeological resources. The CAF system allows an effective alternative to this resource destructive practice.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvement

Project Name/Code: King Gillette Ranch Improvements

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvement

Location/Park Name: King Gillette Ranch

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority

Total Grant Amount: \$500,000

Funding Source(s): Proposition 84

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6051

Board Actions (Date): 7/9/07

Resolution Number: 07-61

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A

Funding Source(s):

Item of Appropriation:

Board Actions (Date):

Resolution Number:

Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

One of the most stunning locales in the Santa Monica Mountains, 558-acre King Gillette Ranch is situated in the heart of the Malibu Creek Watershed (Santa Monica Bay watershed), by the confluence of five major tributaries, and adjacent to Malibu Creek State Park. This scenic parkland at the lower end of the Las Virgenes Valley is a haven for larger mammals of the Santa Monica Mountains. At the same time, it offers a rare unspoiled view of California's rich archaeological, cultural, and historic resources, including a Chumash settlement, and nationally significant structures designed for razor magnate King C. Gillette in the 1920's by Wallace Neff, architect of California's Golden Age. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) manages the

park in cooperation with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area unit of the National Park Service, and California State Parks.

King Gillette Ranch opened to the public on June 30, 2007, mere hours after previous tenant, Soka University, vacated the property. The extended presence of the previous tenant meant that MRCA staff was unable to fully assess the condition of all resources, or complete any visitor-serving improvements prior to the park opening. The MRCA is undertaking the management of King Gillette Ranch knowing that improvements to the existing facilities are necessary to provide safe and enjoyable public use.

The MRCA has secured funding from other sources for initial efforts to provide necessary signage, fencing and basic furnishing for the public programs. However, there is much more work to do on the property to make it available for all manner of public programs and special uses. An ongoing facilities assessment already indicates that many of the buildings need repairs including roofing, plumbing, electrical and structural. Flooring, lighting, painting, and other interior and exterior finishes need to be refurbished and replaced. Upgrades need to be made to provide adequate restroom facilities in multiple locations throughout the property and to provide improved ADA accessibility. It is anticipated that many small and simple fixes will be undertaken in all of the buildings. Several buildings are in a state of extreme disrepair. These buildings need to be stabilized to prevent further degradation.

The grounds need improvements as well. Roads and parking areas need to be resealed and striped. Ideal vehicular and pedestrian circulation plans for the property need to be identified and marked. Water and irrigation lines are old and in a state of disrepair, and plantings need to be refurbished. Courtyards around the Gillette Mansion need to be restored.

Some improvements also need to be completed at the Holiday Camp portion of the property and to the DeCinces House. MRCA staff needs to finish the renovation of the building to be used as a fire-training center at Holiday Camp. The roofing needs to be completed. Interior and exterior finishes need to be put in place. Paving around DeCinces house needs to be repaired. Some fencing may need to be installed adjacent to the building.

MRCA staff will do much of the planning work in the house. Some outside consultants will need to be hired to fulfill some of the work. For example, licensed architects will be required to design some of the

restroom improvements. While consultants have prepared an initial facility assessment for the property, more specific studies will surely be necessary as plans for repairs and upgrades are prioritized.

Pursuant to Section 75005(m) of the Public Resources Code, "Protection" means those actions necessary to prevent harm or damages to persons, property or natural resources or those actions necessary to allow the continued use and enjoyment of property or natural resources and includes acquisition, development, restoration, preservation and interpretation.

Pursuant to Section 75005(n) of the Public Resources Code. "Restoration" includes the improvement of physical structures or facilities and in case of natural systems and landscape features other plant and wildlife habitat improvements to increase the natural value of the property.

The described project will allow for the continued use and enjoyment of property and natural resources and improve the physical structures, facilities, and natural systems and landscape at King Gillette Ranch.

The requested funding will be used to plan, prioritize, and implement improvements to provide a safe and satisfying experience for the public. The MRCA requests that the term of agreement begin July 9, 2007 and end no earlier than June 30, 2009.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvement

Project Name/Code: MRCA/SMMC Parklands Map  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

#### I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvement  
Location/Park Name: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Zone

#### II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$150,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 84  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6051  
Board Actions (Date): 2/25/08  
Resolution Number: 08-18

#### III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

#### IV. NARRATIVE:

In 2002, the Mountains Recreation and Conservancy (MRCA) and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy produced a glossy map that showed all the open space parkland in and around the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Zone including the Los Angeles River and its tributaries. The back side of the map included information about the Conservancy, the plants and animals of the region, key parks and trails, and other information to improve access to and enjoyment of Conservancy and partner agency parkland.

The widely distributed map was very popular with the public, and the 200,000 maps that were printed at the time were almost all given away by



2006. Since the map was printed in 2002, the MRCA and the Conservancy have completed thousands of acres of acquisitions and improvement projects that were not shown on this original map. These include Upper Las Virgenes Open Space Preserve, King Gillette Ranch, Tujunga Wash Greenway Restoration Project, and Vista Hermosa Park. For this reason, MRCA would like to both update the actual map and redesign the flip side of the map to reflect more recent achievements and goals of the Conservancy and MRCA. The projected cost to produce and print the maps would be \$150,000.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvements

Project Name/Code: Pacoima Wash Eighth Street Park  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvement  
Location/Park Name: Pacoima/Eighth Street Park

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$1,200,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 84  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6051  
Board Actions (Date): 5/12/08  
Resolution Number: 08-36

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

The MRCA is proposing to build improvements for the Eighth Street Park in the City of San Fernando. The proposed improvements include installation of new fencing, restoration of native plant communities, site furnishings, interpretive elements, and best management practices for urban runoff storm water that currently drains straight into Pacoima Wash. The project will result in less runoff entering the wash and will increase the quality of water that does.

Design of the park improvements is complete and the construction documents are complete. The City of San Fernando has approved the project, and the drawings have been submitted to Los Angeles County for

permitting and approval. MRCA has received construction bids from six companies. The apparent lowest bid is \$1.52 million. The subject Proposition 84 grant will be combined with other sources to cover the construction bid, as well as construction oversight, fees, and contingency.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvements

Project Name/Code: Temescal Gateway Park  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

#### I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvement  
Location/Park Name: Pacific Palisades/Temescal Gateway Park

#### II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$550,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 84  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6051  
Board Actions (Date): 7/9/07  
Resolution Number: 07-60

#### III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

Amendment Amount:  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

#### IV. NARRATIVE:

Located in the Santa Monica Bay Watershed in the Pacific Palisades, Temescal Gateway Park is one of the most popular parks in the Santa Monica Mountains. The park encompasses 141 acres of oak and sycamore canyons, ridge-top views, and access to miles of trails in Topanga State

Park, Will Rogers State Historic Park, and the 20,000-acre “Big Wild.” Park amenities include easy to moderate trails, picnic tables and grassy areas, restrooms, a camp store, meeting rooms, an auditorium, and classrooms.

Temescal Gateway Park is also the home to many educational and outreach programs for children, particularly the Field Science Program. These programs are dedicated to bringing enriching hands-on outdoor experiences to Los Angeles’ under-served, urban youth. Professional naturalists lead students on a 3-day/2-night hands-on science program that aligns with California State Science Content Standards adopted by the California State Board of Education. Many of the students who attend the program have never had this kind of outdoor adventure. Experiences like these expand students’ perspectives of the world and can profoundly impact the course of their lives.

The MRCA’s Interpretive Division is planning to increase the educational programs at Temescal. In order to accommodate the increased youth participation, some of the park’s facilities need to be upgraded. The existing cabins are in dire need of refurbishment, both inside as well as exteriors and roof replacements. All of the restrooms in the cabins and the adjacent shower building need to be updated. The landscaping around these structures also could use upgrading. Areas around the recently constructed dormitories and the refurbished dining hall are also in need of planting. The three classrooms, sitting uphill from the dormitories, need refurbishment as well. The restrooms serving these buildings need to be upgraded. The landscaping in this area needs restoring as well.

In addition to these building renovations, multiple public use and ecological areas throughout the park are in need of improvement. Restoration of the stream as it passes through the built section of the canyon is a high priority. The removal of non-native eucalyptus trees has left some areas in need of habitat restoration there are opportunities to add sycamores, willows, and other riparian plants. Down by Platform Oak, staff would like to install a new lawn to create an additional informal picnic area. Throughout the park, picnic tables and benches need to be replaced and added; fencing needs to be repaired; and irrigation needs to be upgraded to provide more and better opportunities for public use. Staff also proposes trail realignment in various places in the park.

The MRCA proposes to install additional fire safety measures in the canyon that are necessary to protect the existing resources. These measures will include but not be limited to the installation of water tanks, the creation of safe storage for flammable maintenance products like oil, gas, and paint, and the relocation of equipment storage.

MRCA staff will do much of the planning work in house. Some outside consultants will need to be hired to fulfill some of the work. For example, licensed architects will be required to design some of the restrooms improvements. Traffic safety and trail design specialists will also be retained.

Pursuant to Section 75005(m) of the Public Resources Code, "Protection" means those actions necessary to prevent harm or damages to persons, property or natural resources or those actions necessary to allow the continued use and enjoyment of property or natural resources and includes acquisition, development, restoration, preservation and interpretation.

Pursuant to Section 75005(n) of the Public Resources Code, "Restoration" includes the improvement of physical includes the improvement of physical structures or facilities and in the case of natural systems and landscape features other plant and wildlife habitat improvements to increase the natural value of the property.

The described Project will allow for the continued use and enjoyment of property and natural resources and improve the physical structures, facilities, and natural systems and landscape at Temescal Gateway Park. The MRCA requests that the term of agreement begin July 9, 2007 and end no earlier than June 30, 2009.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvement

Project Name/Code: Tujunga Wash Stream Restoration

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

#### I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvement  
Location/Park Name: Tujunga Wash

#### II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$100,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 50  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6031  
Board Actions (Date): 11/29/06  
Resolution Number: 06-92

#### III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: \$200,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 84  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6051  
Board Actions (Date): 9/24/07  
Resolution Number: 07-88  
Total Grant Amount: \$300,000

Amendment Amount: \$100,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 84  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6051  
Board Actions (Date): 5/12/08  
Resolution Number: 08-41  
Total Grant Amount: \$400,000

#### IV. NARRATIVE:

Tujunga Wash is a nine-mile rectangular channel constructed between 1950 and 1952 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It conveys runoff from Hansen Dam to the Wash's confluence with the Los Angeles River. The channel flows through highly urbanized residential and commercial

areas in the City of Los Angeles. Outside of flood control, the concrete-lined channel offers very little benefit to the community and environment. There is approximately 65 feet of Los Angeles County Flood Control District owned right of way along both sides of the channel that currently lacks landscaping and recreational amenities.

The subject project extends from Oxnard to Vanowen Street, a distance of approximately 6,100 feet, on both sides of Tujunga Wash. The area consists of a highly urbanized residential and commercial area in the Valley Glen community of the City of Los Angeles. After several community input meetings and studies of restoration alternatives, the improvements chosen included an alternative naturalized stream course on the west bank of the channel, habitat restoration on both sides of the channel, pathways for people to walk and bike, and interpretive exhibits, all within existing flood control right of way.

The constructed stream mimics a small tributary in this region, having a natural, unlined streambed and ephemeral flows. By intercepting flow from the main channel and allowing runoff to flow through a naturalized stream, the project reduces flood potential and improves water quality by reducing pollutants from the urban flows. The project will also create riparian habitat for a number of species adapted to the urban environment. Decorative fencing and gates will replace the existing chainlink and barbed wire fencing and gates. The project area will be open from sunrise to sunset.

Over \$5 million in grant funds has already been secured through the County of Los Angeles, The California Department of Water Resources, and the Resources Agency. The MRCA is implementing the project in close cooperation with the Los Angeles County Public Works' Watershed Management Division.

The MRCA already has a contractor in place and construction is anticipated to be substantially complete by April 30, 2007. The requested funds would be put to immediate use to augment the construction budget for the project.



## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Improvement

Project Name/Code: Vista Hermosa

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

#### I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Improvement  
Location/Park Name: Vista Hermosa Park

#### II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$508,823  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 84  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6051  
Board Actions (Date): 7/9/07  
Resolution Number: 07-52

#### III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: \$750,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 84  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6051  
Board Actions (Date): 5/12/08  
Resolution Number: 08-38  
Total Grant Amount: \$1,258,823

Amendment Amount: \$400,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 84  
Item of Appropriation: 9810-301-6051  
Board Actions (Date): 6/23/08  
Resolution Number: 08-48  
Total Grant Amount: \$1,658,823

#### IV. NARRATIVE:

The Mountains Recreation and Conversation Authority will use the proposed grant to fund several features of the park that had been removed due to value engineering for the Vista Hermosa Los Angeles River Watershed Park. The work funded by this grant will be perimeter

fencing and interpretive entry gates; a watershed demonstration grotto; greening of the building roofs; and upsizing the specimen oak and sycamore trees and doubling the quantity of native plants.

The Vista Hermosa Los Angeles River Watershed Restoration Project will provide a restored natural watershed experience. The natural environment will feature habitats found in the Santa Monica Mountains and the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed. Within the park, landforms will emphasize watershed processes that will capture and recycle all on site irrigation water. The Vista Hermosa Los Angeles River Watershed Project design features a cistern to capture, clean and reuse water runoff; passive solar buildings; green roofs to reduce urban heat island effect; and a grotto water feature interpretive tool for environmental, water and energy conservation. The trees will be upsized to provide more immediate shade, and the amount of native plants has been increased and upsized where appropriate. The perimeter fencing will provide security for the site, and pilasters will have decorative tiles prepared by the community and will support interpretive wrought iron entry gates.

The park design implements the objectives of Proposition 84, specifically 75003 (6) e: "Revitalizing our communities and making them more sustainable and livable by investing in sound land use planning, local parks, and urban greening." The cistern is designed to prevent storm water from becoming urban runoff, and a portion of the captured water will be used for irrigation. The green roof will provide a natural insulation, and reduce the effects of the urban heat island effect. The watershed grotto feature is adjacent to the outdoor classroom and demonstrates how a watershed functions. The site fencing provides a safe park experience and the pilasters and entry gates provide graphic interpretive elements. Larger oaks and sycamores will be purchased and other native plantings increased. The students at the neighboring high school will be able see this systems in use on a daily basis, improving their understanding of watershed processes and water quality.

Section 79508 of the Water Code requires the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to implement the San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan, commonly known as the Common Ground Plan. The Vista Hermosa Los Angeles River Watershed Restoration Project implements several of the guiding principles (1), strategies (2), and opportunities (3) identified in the San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers Watershed Open Space Plan adopted by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy in October 2001. These include: creating public open space throughout the region; improving

urban lands for opportunities for access to parks and recreation; improving habitat quality, educational and interpretive opportunities; and partnerships for multi-objective planning, among others. Furthermore, the Vista Hermosa Los Angeles River Watershed Restoration Project is consistent with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's Strategic Plan adopted by the Department of Finance in 1997: "Expand local government, school district, and non-profit ventures to provide increased educational and access opportunities." (4)

The Project has met with unqualified support and enthusiasm, and it is apparent that the demand for active use areas and shaded gatherings is higher than originally thought. To meet this demand, MRCA proposes to modify the planting, irrigation, and pathway design in several areas to allow for larger, better distributed, shaded and configured play and gathering areas that will not conflict with other uses and the more fragile native plant restoration areas. More large trees are necessary to achieve any shade in the short term.

1. The San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers Watershed and Open Space Plan p. 47

2. The San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers Watershed and Open Space Plan pp. 52, 53

3. The San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers Watershed and Open Space Plan p. 56

4. The Santa Monica Mountains Strategic Plan p. 10

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Interpretation

Project Name/Code: Interpretation

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Interpretation

Location/Park Name: N/A

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority

Total Grant Amount: \$875,000

Funding Source(s): Proposition 84

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6051

Board Actions (Date): 7/9/07

Resolution Number: 07-53

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: \$675,000

Funding Source(s): Proposition 84

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6051

Board Actions (Date): 10/20/08

Resolution Number: 08-75

Total Grant Amount: \$1,550,000

IV. NARRATIVE:

For the purpose of this grant, interpretation includes any visitor serving amenities that educate and communicate the significance and value of natural, historical, and cultural resources of the Los Angeles River Watershed, and increases the understanding and enjoyment of these resources. These amenities include interpretive signage and materials, naturalist led programs, special seminars and events in the parkland owned or managed by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Special attention will be given to development and implementation of programs at new parks, most notably Vista Hermosa.

All programs will target regional audiences from our city's most impacted and disadvantaged urban areas. The specific scope of services that will be provided, include:

- Guided interpretive programs, including program development and implementation, directly relating to the watershed's rich natural, cultural, and historic resources. Programming will focus on interpretation of the site's endangered species, ecology, importance of the watershed, conservation, biodiversity, Mediterranean ecosystems, wildlife corridors, and fire ecology;

- Partial funding of an interpretive newsletter "Symbiosis" which is printed quarterly and is available at all park locations, distributed to park visitors by staff and is utilized as part of interpretive programming;

- Interpretive materials, including site specific materials, program schedules, safety information and self-guided interpretative materials that are designed and implemented to increase visitors enjoyment and understanding of the watershed;

- Camping programs for disadvantaged youth ensuring that they enjoy the access to parklands and participate in guided interpretive programs that include the watershed, conservation, biodiversity, Mediterranean ecosystems, wildlife corridors, and fire ecology.

- Weekly River Ranger program for youth 8-12 designed to increase the understanding and enjoyment of the Los Angeles River. Programs will be held at Marsh Street Park, the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens and pocket parks managed by the MRCA along the Los Angeles River. In addition to endangered species, ecology, importance of the watershed, conservation, biodiversity, Mediterranean ecosystems, wildlife corridors, and fire ecology, the River Ranger program focuses on identification of plants and animals of the Los Angeles River Watershed, water ecology and stewardship;

- Weekly Junior Ranger Program at Vista Hermosa Natural Park utilizing the same program design as the River Ranger program.

- Continued operation of monthly Transit to Trails Program for families from disadvantaged communities to parklands owned and managed by the MRCA in the watershed and participation in interpretive programs at those parks. Food and transportation funds for this program are provided by a separate funding source;

- Development and implementation of an interpretive program for high school students in which the students will learn about the Los Angeles River watershed's rich natural, cultural, and historic resources including endangered species, ecology, conservation, biodiversity, Mediterranean ecosystems, wildlife corridors, and fire ecology. the students will then lead guided interpretive programs for members of the public at the park, as defined above.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Interpretation

Project Name/Code: Ranger Interpretation  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Interpretation  
Location/Park Name: N/A

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$204,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 84  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6051  
Board Actions (Date): 5/12/08  
Resolution Number: 08-39

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

For the purposes of this grant, interpretation includes any visitor serving amenities that educate and communicate the significance and value of natural, historical, and cultural resources of the Los Angeles River Watershed, and increases the understanding and enjoyment of these resources. These amenities include interpretive signage and materials, naturalist led programs, special seminars and events in parkland owned or managed by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

In addition to the programs and materials developed for the general public, specific ranger interpretive programs will focus on programs which serve disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities. This

includes programs at Vista Hermosa Park and along the Los Angeles River, as well as programs for disadvantaged youth from both watersheds.

This grant will allow the addition of an interpretive element to the MRCA's youth leadership programs such as the Ranger Explorers and the Vista Hermosa Youth Corps. The addition of these elements will broaden the expertise and abilities of participants by giving them the skills needed for program development and delivery as well as increase the interpretive amenities offered to the public by creating a new core group of interpreters.

The specific scope of services that will be provided, include:

- Guided interpretive programs, including program development and implementation, directly relating to the watershed's rich natural, cultural, and historic resources. Programming will focus on interpretation of the site's endangered species, ecology, importance of the watershed, conservation, biodiversity, Mediterranean ecosystems, wildlife corridors, and fire ecology;
- Interpretive materials that support ranger interpretive programs, including site specific materials, safety information and other supplemental materials that are designed and implemented to increase visitors enjoyment and understanding of the watershed;
- Quarterly Junior Ranger Jamborees where participants in the MRCA's Junior Ranger programs from all over the city will have an overnight experience where they will receive interpretive programs led by rangers on survival, adaptation, and interdependence in the eco-systems of the Santa Monica Mountains and how these disciplines relate to the human experience.
- Ranger participation in the development and implementation of the Vista Hermosa Park Leadership Program, which will include recruitment, training and employment of young adults from the community surrounding Vista Hermosa for the purpose of increasing their enjoyment and understanding of the parks resources as well as communicating that understanding to other community members. Matching funds are available for this program to cover non-interpretive elements.
- Supplies and equipment necessary to produce quality interpretive program including props, maps, and audio visual equipment for projection at nighttime events.



## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Operation

Project Name/Code: Fuel Hazard Reduction (DT)  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

#### I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Operation  
Location/Park Name: N/A

#### II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$1,200,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 84  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6051  
Board Actions (Date): 7/9/07  
Resolution Number: 07-57

#### III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: \$950,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 84  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6051  
Board Actions (Date): 10/20/08  
Resolution Number: 08-83  
Total Grant Amount: \$2,150,000

#### IV. NARRATIVE:

The project will address the problem of high levels of flammable vegetation found adjacent to buildings, roadways, and other features. Often these fuels consist of large amounts of invasive species such as mustard and thistle. The project will utilize equipment, hand crews, and resource modification techniques to remove these hazardous and invasive fire-fuels from around structures, roadways and other features. Native low fuel contributing species will then be planted to convert high fuel hazard locations into low fuel locations. These efforts will help reduce damage to structures and preclude damaging watershed erosion by preventing wildfires in the first place. The defensible spaces created around

structures by this program will directly contribute to the safety of homeowners, firefighters, and the general public.

The mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority operates and manages dozens of park sites, hundreds of individual APN locations, and thousands of acres of open space located throughout Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. The protection and restoration of both natural and developed resources found on these lands can be facilitated by the systematic removal of invasive plants and restoration of native plant communities in their place. The removal of hazardous fuel-loads directly protects structures and other park features; moreover, such wildlife prevention efforts help to protect wildlife & plant communities found in fragmented urban interface and open space areas. Erosion & watershed protection is also accomplished by restoration of native plant communities and the prevention of wildfires through the reduction of fuel loads. These actions also reduce sediment, ash, and organic matter loading of streams draining these watersheds.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Project Planning And Design

Project Name/Code: Emerald Horseshoe  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Project Planning and Design  
Location/Park Name: Between Eaton Canyon & The Arroyo Seco

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Altadena Foothills Conservancy  
Total Grant Amount: \$15,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 84  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6051  
Board Actions (Date): 2/25/08  
Resolution Number: 08-17

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

The Altadena Foothills Conservancy proposes to conduct a study of the foothills, arroyos, and valley between the densely populated northwestern San Gabriel Valley and Angeles National Forest. The study will explore potential local and regional trail and open space connections as well as improved environmental quality for the surrounding community. Results of the study will contain principles, strategies and design for application in the project area allowing for immediate implementation of a regionally significant and environmentally sound open space system called the Emerald Horseshoe. The plan will describe opportunities for land acquisition, habitat restoration, and trails. The goal of this project is to establish a comprehensive vision for an Emerald Horseshoe of open space that addresses recreation, wildlife habitat and hydrologic function, and

that defines the role of the project area within the southern California landscape. The community will be included in the process of developing the plan goals and objectives. The Altadena Foothills Conservancy will use this plan in applying for future funding for land acquisition, habitat and trail restoration, and environmental education to achieve the goals and objectives identified in the plan.

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Project Planning and Design

Project Name/Code: Griffith Park  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Project Planning and Design  
Location/Park Name: Griffith Park

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Community Partners  
Total Grant Amount: \$25,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 84  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6051  
Board Actions (Date): 2/25/08  
Resolution Number: 08-19

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: \$10,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 84  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6051  
Board Actions (Date): 9/22/08  
Resolution Number: 08-58  
Total Grant Amount: \$35,000

IV. NARRATIVE:

The City Project seeks a \$35,000 planning grant under Prop 84 including \$10,000 for the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department to carry out a detailed planning study to transform the service yard in Griffith Park on the East Bank of the Los Angeles River into a multi-benefit park with clean water, air, land, and interpretive elements that would serve one of the most park starved neighborhoods in Los Angeles, and serve the region as a whole. The site has been identified by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and non-profit groups as the next great urban park in Los Angeles and as part of the revitalization of the Los Angeles River. This proposal furthers the goals of the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan. The funding will be used to collect data from the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (LADRP); prepare

a demographic and multi-benefit water and open space analysis of a three-mile radius around the site; prepare a conceptual plan; and engage in limited outreach to community leaders to determine park and recreation needs in the area consistent with the terms of Proposition 84.

Greening this site would primarily constitute implementation of watershed protection activities throughout the watershed of the Upper Los Angeles River pursuant to section 75050(g)(2) of Proposition 84. By protecting, preserving, and restoring the land along the river and cleaning the water that is discharged into the river from that site, the project would also serve to protect the Santa Monica Bay and its watershed under section 75060(d)(1): the project would help prevent contamination and degradation of coastal waters and watersheds, protect and restore the natural habitat values of coastal waters and lands, and promote access to and enjoyment of the coastal resources of the state. Finally, the grant will be used for planning the successful design, selection, and implementation of the greening project, under section 75072

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Project Planning and Design

Project Name/Code: Los Angeles River Feasibility Study

Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Project Planning and Design

Location/Park Name: Los Angeles River

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Grantee: Studio City

Total Grant Amount: \$20,000

Funding Source(s): Proposition 84

Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6051

Board Actions (Date): 9/24/07

Resolution Number: 07-90

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount: N/A

Funding Source(s):

Item of Appropriation:

Board Actions (Date):

Resolution Number:

Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

V. PROJECT STATUS:

On-going

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION

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### Project Planning and Design

Project Name/Code: Project Planning and Design  
Agency Code: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

I. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Type of Project: Acquisition  
Location/Park Name: Upper Los Angeles River & Santa Monica Bay

II. GRANT INFORMATION:

Entity Grant is From: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Grantee: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Total Grant Amount: \$650,000  
Funding Source(s): Proposition 84  
Item of Appropriation: 3810-301-6051  
Board Actions (Date): 9/24/08  
Resolution Number: 07-86

III. AMENDMENTS:

Amendment Amount:  
Funding Source(s):  
Item of Appropriation:  
Board Actions (Date):  
Resolution Number:  
Total Grant Amount:

IV. NARRATIVE:

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority's (MRCA) requested Project Planning and Design Services augmentation would fund activities directly related to the acquisition, preservation, protection and restoration of land, water and other natural resources and associated planning, permitting, and administrative costs for eligible projects located in the upper Los Angeles River watershed and the coastal watershed of the Santa Monica Bay. The MRCA will provide direct services related to the expeditious acquisition or improvement of property.

The MRCA, in consultation with the Conservancy staff, will develop and implement projects that maximize the protection, enhancement,



distribution, and creation of public parks and natural areas throughout the upper Los Angeles River watershed and the coastal canyons of the Santa Monica Bay. The funding will be used for Proposition 84 funding eligible projects in the specific geographic areas listed in the figure entitled "Potential Projects List." The scope of these projects shall range from the acquisition and development of urban native habitat parks and trails to the acquisition of habitat linkage lands between the major core habitats of the Santa Monica Mountains zone. MRCA staff efforts will also include the obtainment and processing of land and trail easement dedications and donations. To the extent possible, all planning, design, and implementation efforts shall be multi-objective to integrate increased water supply and quality, wildlife habitat including fisheries, habitat connectivity, and the broad distribution of passive recreational opportunities that may incorporate interpretive displays. All of the subject project planning and design activities would be consistent with the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84) and in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act. Project development will strongly focus on combining multiple funding sources to stretch both local and State dollars.

A major component of this grant scope is to bring forth to the Conservancy a primary set of upper Los Angeles River watershed projects to be partially funded by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's allocation of Proposition 84 funding. The development of that project set, and their resulting scopes, will involve extensive public input to greatly address the paucity of the Conservancy's Workprogram projects in the portions of the watershed that were added to the Conservancy's jurisdiction with the passage of Proposition 50 and carried forth in Proposition 84. The project set will include both acquisition and improvement projects in the array of upper watershed geographic quadrants.

The MRCA requests that the term of agreement end no earlier than December 30, 2008.